

Disability Now

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Government must outlaw discrimination

The Government is under heavy pressure to outlaw discrimination against disabled people. Fresh calls for anti-discrimination legislation came from disability groups and an independent think tank last month.

At a London conference organised by RADAR and MENCAP, Employment Secretary Michael Howard was openly lobbied for a change in policy.

RADAR director Bert Massie said: "Anti-discriminatory legislation is needed because it can regulate the behaviour of employers. This is important when a lot of disabled people don't even get interviews because employers assume they can't do the job."

MENCAP chairman Sir Brian Rix said: "I believe very strongly that anti-discriminatory legislation is needed because it would change people's attitudes and make it impossible for people to say in adverts that disabled people need not apply."

Both Labour and the Liberal Democrats have pledged to introduce anti-discrimination legislation if they win the next election, Sir Brian said. "We are now looking to The Government to do the same."

Meanwhile a new report from the independent, left-of-centre Institute for Public Policy Research (IPPR), called on the Government to introduce a law that would tackle:

*Direct discrimination - where some people are treated less favourably than others because of their disability

*Indirect discrimination - where a job, service or facility is made available subject to a condition which makes it harder for disabled people to qualify than able-bodied people

*Unequal burdens - where a handicap is imposed on a disabled person by the social and physical environment.

Equal Rights for Disabled People also calls for a special commission to enforce the new law and promote equal opportunities for disabled people.

Anna Coote of the IPPR said: "There are some 285,000 disabled people who were not in work last year but wanted to be. The legislation is needed

Continued on page 2

Fighting service

Parents of disabled children who can rarely find a solicitor trained in education law to help them fight local authority decisions will gain from a national service launched last month.

The Education Law Advisors' Service (ELAS) will bring together solicitors and education advisors to promote good practice and train solicitors. By working together, members also hope to produce proposals and press for improvements in the law covering special education, schooling issues and further education.

Education advisor Jenny Hall, formally of the Advisory Centre for Education (ACE) and solicitor Jack Rabinowicz, who specialises in education law, initiated the idea and 100 lawyers, including local authority lawyers, are interested.

Parents who make use of a trained solicitor will still face paying a fee, for legal aid is

Continued on page 2

Close hospitals now

People with learning difficulties went to Downing Street last month and held demonstrations across the country. They were calling for the closure of mental handicap hospitals.

Supporters of Values Into Action (VIA), a national campaign group for people with learning difficulties, gathered outside hospitals in Blackburn, Cockerham, Epsom, Leeds, Nottingham, Radlett and Royston.

They believe people with learning difficulties should have their own home, so each hospital was presented with a large gold key. Demonstrators then read out accounts of what life is like inside.

The VIA handed in a letter to the Prime Minister. It called for more funding for community care and a Government commitment to the right of people with learning difficulties to live as citizens in the community.

VIA director Steve Dowson said: "It is ironic that at a time when there is so much talk about citizens' rights there are almost 30,000 innocent people kept in institutions.

"These people are deprived of almost all their rights and are not recognised as citizens.

"Although numbers in hospitals have halved, progress is now being halted and we fear the process could even be reversed."

Ian makes DSS see sense

A man who has lost his arms and legs has finally been given permanent mobility allowance (MA) after a three year battle.

Ian Smith, 21, from Kent was first assessed for MA in 1988 when he lost his limbs after an accident at work.

He was given MA, but the Department of Social Security told him he would have to reapply in two years time so doctors could reassess him.

"I was shocked," said Ian. "It seemed very unfair. They seemed to think that I would suddenly improve in two years time."

He appealed and was given the allowance for three years but he was still not satisfied. "I did not want to be in the situation where they could keep reassessing me. It was very unsettling."

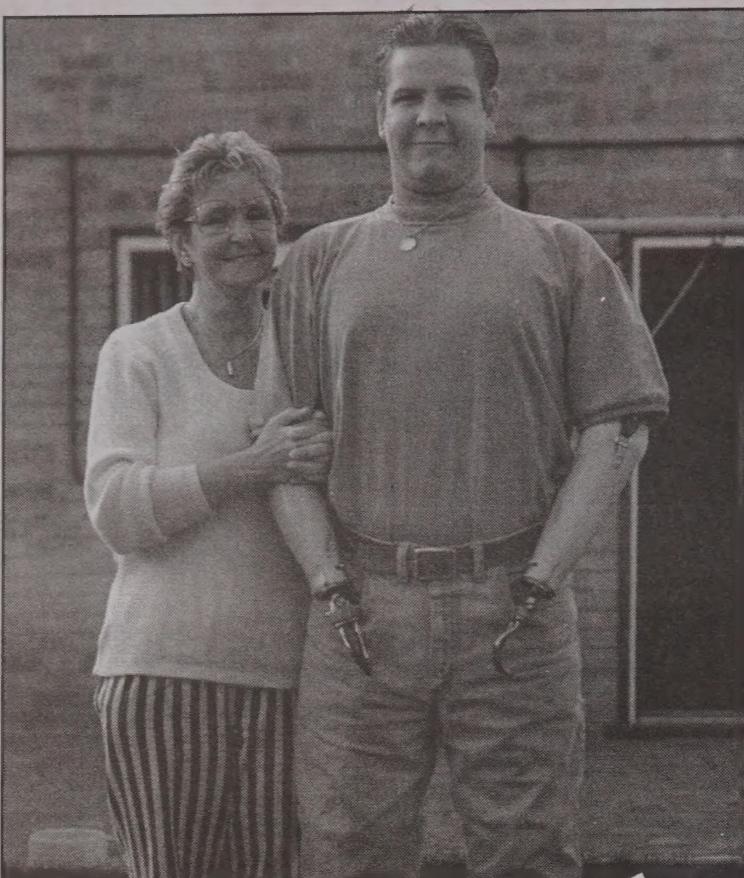
Last month he was given the benefit until 2049. "It's a great relief," said Ian. "It was quite a fight but well worth it in the end."

Fighting service

Continued from page 1

usually available only if a case goes to court.

But under the new Children Act, coming into force this month, legal aid can be granted on the basis of the child's income.



Ian and mum Margaret. SOLO SYNDICATION AND LITERARY AGENCY LTD/DAILY MAIL

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Discrimination

Continued from page 1

because work places, schools, colleges and transport systems and public buildings routinely exclude disabled people or make it difficult to lead normal lives."

The conference, "Real Jobs for Real Money", highlighted employment and disability as "the issue of the '90s", pointing out that disabled people are four times more likely to be unemployed than people without disabilities.

But Mr Howard has no plans to introduce legislation: "I don't think it would be an effective way to deal with the problem. There are clear cut differences between anti-discriminatory legislation on the grounds of disability and law against race and sexual discrimination, which are more straightforward and clear cut."

He was "sceptical" about how successful America's anti-

New benefit looks set to be "poverty trap"

The Government's new Disability Working Allowance is in danger of becoming a poverty trap rather than a bridge into paid employment, The Spastics Society warned last month.

DWA, due to come into force next April, will top up the wages of disabled people in work so they can take low paid jobs without losing out.

Many people will have to undergo a test proving they are disadvantaged in getting work. For some, this will be done every six months.

Brian Lamb, head of campaigns at the Society, said: "Because of the strict qualifying rules, the loss of other benefits and the very low rates, DWA will have an extremely low take-up, and a high level of unsuccessful claims. The Government is unlikely to meet its own limited target of 50,000 people on the new benefit. The

regulations show that DWA is in danger of becoming a poverty trap rather than a bridge into paid employment."

* The Government has changed the rules on payment of unlimited benefits arrears.

Under the old Regulation 72, payment was made where officials had been at fault.

Under the new Regulation 64A payment will be made: "where, at the time of making the decision under review, the adjudication authority had before it specific evidence relevant to a claim but failed to take it into account; or, where a member of staff of the department failed to submit a document or record containing evidence to the adjudication authority which determined the question; or, where an adjudication officer has overlooked or misconstrued a provision in legislation or case law."

The new rule was to come into force on 11 September. After some organisations - including the Northern Ireland Council on Disability (NICD), the Belfast Law Centre and Strathclyde Regional Council - took adverts telling people to get their claims in immediately, the DSS changed the deadline to 31 August. NICD called the action "churlish and disingenuous."

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See also page 3.

BCODP pushes for anti-discrimination

Anne Rae reports

The British Council of Organisations of Disabled People (representing over 70 organisations) celebrated its 10th anniversary with the launch of an anti-discrimination campaign and a report revealing institutional discrimination against disabled people.

John Evans, chairing the AGM in Manchester last month, said: "It is crucial all our member organisations get behind this campaign, which is undoubtedly the most important challenge we have taken on."

"We have to build on the success of American disabled people in achieving their Americans with Disabilities Act. So we are pleased to have Mike Auberger, American campaigner, as our guest speaker. Until we gain such legislation (in Britain), we will remain second class citizens."

Three speakers looked at the way forward.

Vic Finkelstein, first chairperson of the BCODP, said the segregation of disabled people from mainstream society reflected the apartheid in force against black people in South Africa. He warned that

BCODP must ensure that the legislation it got was the legislation it wanted on which to build the emancipation of disabled people.

Mike Auberger of ADAPT said that the American legislation had taken eight and a half years of relentless struggle by disabled Americans, with repeated acts of civil disobedience. He stressed that disabled people must learn to demand human rights and be prepared to fight long and hard to take them. No one would give them.

Lucille Lusk, new BCODP co-chairperson (with Jane Campbell), welcomed the report, a digest of a considerable body of research: "This report lays to rest once and for all that disability is a medical matter. Now I call on all organisations for disabled people to nail their colours to the mast of the anti-discrimination flagship and support the campaign with financial help."

Disabled People in Britain and Discrimination: A Case for Anti-Discrimination Legislation by Colin Barnes, £11.25 (inc p&p) from BCODP, St Mary's Church, Greenlaw Street, London SE18 5AR, in October.



All chained up: Tracey Booth and Mike Kender stop the bus in Oxford Street.

TIM RUSSELL

Nine arrests in Oxford Street

Nine disabled people were arrested in London last month during a demonstration for accessible transport.

They were charged with obstructing the highway and were due to appear in court on 30 September.

More than fifty disabled people in wheelchairs blocked Oxford Street for almost an hour, including veteran American campaigner Mike Auberger. Others chained themselves to buses and were freed by policemen using hacksaws.

The Campaign for Accessible Transport (CAT), which organised the protest, said it would continue its policy of direct action.

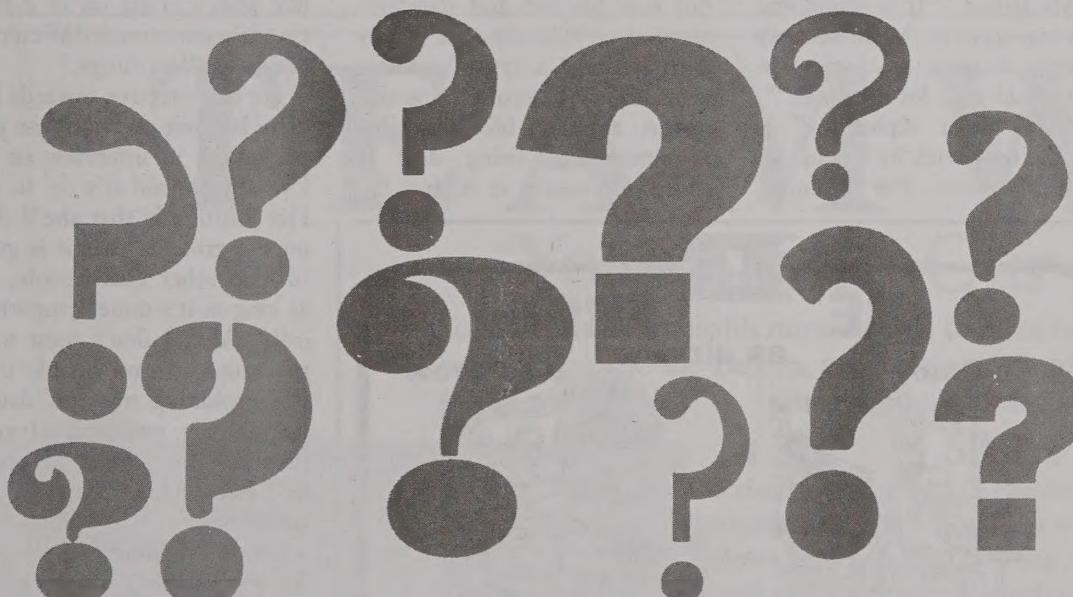
At its first demo in Oxford Street last September 14 people were charged with obstruction, but charges were then dropped.

CAT spokeswoman Tracey Booth, one of the demonstrators charged, said: "The response from the public has been tremendous. The vast majority supported us. We will not give up until the Department of Transport sets dates

and targets for the introduction of fully accessible transport."

Ruth Bailey, from Camden, who chained herself to a bus, said: "Without friends to give you a lift or owning your own car you cannot get around London. It's unfortunate it has come to this, but you have to do something."

A London Regional Transport spokesman said: "We are striving hard to provide an accessible service, but mechanical and operational problems make this impossible at present."



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Lib Dems blaze the trail in Bournemouth

The Liberal Democrats came of age last month with the formation of their own disability group and a new policy on subtitling which leaves the other parties trailing.

Their new group, which will advise the party's policy committee on disability, has set up a steering committee of 14 disabled people. It will decide on a name at its first meeting in London this month.

The Liberal Democrats also announced that all their party political broadcasts will have open subtitling (where everyone can see them) on BBC2 and closed subtitling (for people who have Teletext) on ITV. They are also negotiating with BBC1 to get closed subtitling on there as well.

The Conservatives and Liberal Democrats have had open subtitling on BBC2 before, but

this is the first time any party has had closed subtitling on the main channels.

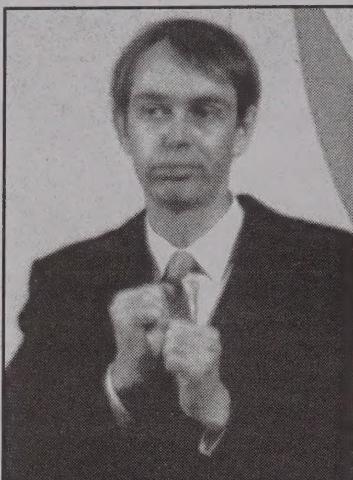
Their election rallies are to have induction loops and sign interpreters, and the party is investigating how to make its manifesto more accessible by, for example, putting it into braille or on tape.

Deaf Accord director, Jane Oberman said: "We're delighted the Liberal Democrats have made such an unequivocal commitment and are recognising the importance of providing access for thousands of deaf and hard of hearing voters. We hope the other parties will soon follow suit."

Pat Atherton from Walthamstow helped to set up the new disability group. "When disability comes up people leave the hall. It's not seen as an important issue. We want to

make it one."

Beth Gee from Beckenham added: "We don't want to be called to speak because we are disabled. We want to be called because the issues we raise are important and because of the



Signers get paid £90 a day plus expenses.

expertise we can bring to bear."

Beth Gee, a wheelchair user, will report to the conference committee on accessibility at the Bournemouth International Centre and Highcliff Hotel, the fringe meeting venue. The conference hall was accessible and sign language interpreters covered all the debates. But some people had problems with the ramps in the exhibition area, and one woman fell off when her chair tipped over.

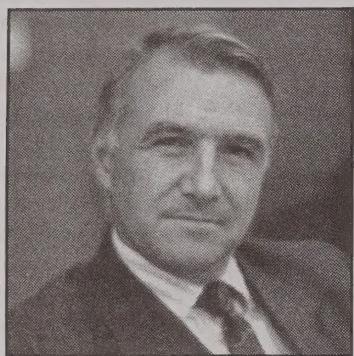
In a debate on "The Rights of Older People" delegates voted to: scrap standing charges for gas and electricity; remove installation and rental charges for phones; provide "adequate support for informal carers within the home"; make a "substantial" increase in basic pensions; double the £10 Christmas bonus; and ban age restrictions in job ads



On the fringe, RADAR and MENCAP launched "Equal Voices - Equal Choices: a charter for disabled citizens" which included demands for a comprehensive disability income, accessible public transport, and equal access to training and education.

The Disability Manifesto group pushed their "Agenda for the 1990s" (DN, July) to around 50 delegates including David Belotti MP and sent it out to all prospective parliamentary candidates.

For the Liberal Democrats' disability group, contact Pat Atherton, tel: 081 521 2747.



Malcolm Bruce

If MP Malcolm Bruce's head isn't spinning, it should be. In three hours at the Liberal Democrats' conference he went to a debate on NHS trusts,

raced off to a meeting about European federalism, did three minutes with TV-AM on hung Parliaments, and arrived breathless for an interview with DN about his daughter Caroline, 14, who is deaf.

The chaos was fitting: his daughter's disability has had a profound effect on his life but it has never consumed his political career.

Adopted as a parliamentary candidate for the Liberal Party in '75, he became MP for Gordon in Aberdeenshire in '83.

He was president of Grampian's National Deaf Children's Society branch from 1986-89, and is now one of the national vice-presidents.

His 1991 Deaf Persons: Access to Further and Higher Education bill highlighted how deaf people are kept out of education because they don't get the assistance they need. As

PROFILE

a private members bill it had little chance of succeeding but that wasn't the point, according to Mr Bruce. "It is something you can wave in the air and say 'Here's a piece of legislation that could do a lot of things.'"

This "quiet diplomacy" is not the only trick he has up his political sleeve. For example,

he got into the newspapers in March when he silently mouthed part of his speech to show MPs what deaf people have to put up with without basic help such as interpreters.

And when the local Conservative council tried to back down from a £1 million rebuilding of his daughter's school (Aberdeen School for the Deaf) he wrote asking them to reconsider and they did.

He is separated from his wife but sees his son and daughter regularly. "Caroline is fairly extrovert and a typical adolescent who goes through ups and downs, thinking life is terrible at times and being deaf is awful. Of course it is, but the

frustration for her is that she is temperamentally a chatterbox, extrovert and sociable, but of course she can't mix very well with hearing people so she is very restricted."

Caroline uses British Sign Language, lip reads, and has some speech. He has taken part 1 of BSL. "We do communicate. It's easy when it's straightforward things. It's only when you start to discuss theories, ideas and concepts, like what's going on in Russia, that it's sometimes difficult for her to explain things."

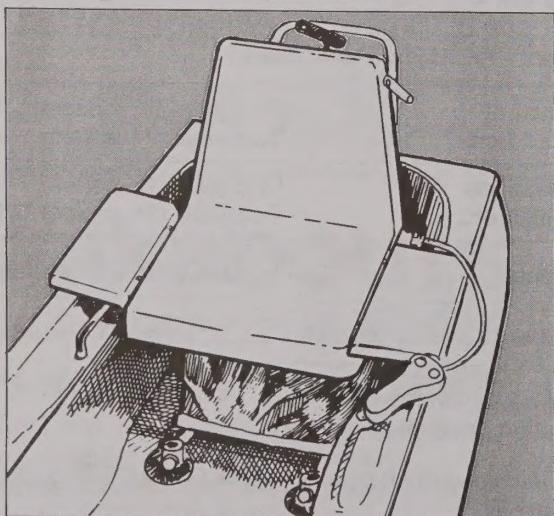
He is protective towards her. "I've had one or two Press people asking to interview us but I've always said it's up to her. Her attitude is that she'll do it on the grounds that it is going to help other deaf people, and as long as it's done sympathetically. Also, I don't want to do too much in case people think I'm exploiting my deaf daughter for my own self-advancement. I think people understand that is not the case."

He has never been the party's disability spokesman. "I made a very early decision that the disability I knew about was deafness and I was really going to concentrate on that because 'disabled people' is a big subject. Being deaf is quite different from having no legs and the problems are different."

He is proud of his party's record on deaf issues. They were the first, for example, to bring sign language interpreters into conferences. But he knows this is not enough. "Although it is important for parties to involve deaf and disabled people in the debate so they can understand what is being proposed, question it and make their own judgements, it is a much wider issue than that. People also need access to jobs, entertainment and lots of other things as well."

Alison Rowat

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IN BRIEF**Fraser fundraising**

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The Fraser Group will offer free, independent financial advice to the Society's staff, members or anyone who knows them via a telephone hotline.

In return for business generated, the Group will make percentage-based donations to the Society.

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Lin goes homeopathic

 Lin Berwick, DN's telephone counsellor who advises people on personal and spiritual problems, is now learning to fix things the homeopathic way after becoming the first blind person to be given a £500 scholarship by the British Institute of Homeopathy.

After completing the correspondence course, which could take two to three years, Lin will be registered as a homeopath and will be able to advise people on treatment.



Mencap member John Collins joined Steve Wilcox, Alan Barnes and Ian Roland in a London practise session before jetting off to climb the 18,000 feet Mount Elbrus in Georgia last month. To sponsor the team write to MENCAP, 123 Golden Lane, London EC1 ORT.

Charities cut jobs and start charging

The RNID is to make 33 staff redundant to try and reduce a £1 million deficit.

Chief executive Stuart Etherington said: "I regret that the particular economic climate has forced us to make these savings, and in particular, I regret the loss of staff. Our prime consideration has been to ensure the future financial

stability of the Institute and to protect the key services that we offer to deaf people."

In another move, the RNIB is to charge for the recording and borrowing of tapes from its library. People will get the first 20 free. After that, each tape will cost £1, up to a maximum of £150. Students will still get theirs free and there will be a

wider range of grants for people who can't afford to pay.

A spokesman said: "It costs around £300 to record the average length book and £40 to £60 to lend this book to one person. This is an enormous amount of money, especially as we get no money from central government towards the costs of providing the service."

School scandal

The National Autistic Society (NAS) wants the Government to introduce new guidelines to regulate the education of children with autism following the Scotforth House court case.

Brenda Ford, headmistress of Scotforth House special school, pleaded guilty last month to three charges of cruelty at Preston Crown Court.

Nursery assistants Mary Milnes of Lancaster and Maureen Robinson of Heysham each admitted a single charge of assault occasioning bodily harm on a child. The case has been adjourned for reports.

Lancashire County council, which runs Scotforth House, has announced an investigation.

NAS executive director Geraldine Peacock said: "We have long recognised the vulnerability of autistic children and are concerned that there are no legislative guidelines for local authorities to establish the mechanisms for effective care and teaching of these children. As a small charity our resources are too limited to tackle all the issues alone without national funding, so we urge the Government to establish a firmer framework for meeting these children's educational needs."

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6 BREAKTHROUGHS

Diabetes trial: latest

Doctors are confident that the first British attempt to cure

diabetes by transplanting insulin-producing cells from a donor pancreas will be successful.

In August, surgeons at Leicester Royal Infirmary, led by Professor Peter Bell,

injected over 400,000 cells into the stomach of a 40-year-old diabetic woman. The cells travelled through the hepatic vein to the liver and are now producing insulin. The operation proved so successful that the patient's insulin injections have already been cut by a third.

Professor Bell said: "If all



PATRICK BAGLEE

goes to plan, it is hoped the patient will be able to live without any injections at all.

"But we will have to wait a little longer to find out if the cells can produce enough insulin of their own. If they don't, we may have to transplant some more cells."

For the time being, transplants will be given only to patients who have already had kidney or other transplants because they are already taking drugs to prevent rejection.

A spokesman for the British Diabetic Association, which funds Professor Bell's research project, said: "This work is very exciting, although we have to stress that it is only a trial. It may be several years before all diabetics will benefit from it because of the problems of rejection. But if it is successful, the operation will be a major breakthrough."



British Telecom is developing a new "hands-free" payphone for people who find it difficult to lift receivers. To make a call, you raise a lever on the side of the box. This puts the phone "on-line" and activates a microphone to amplify your voice. Instead of lifting the handset, you speak in the direction of the box. BT says it will be available in early 1992.

Of mice and muscular dystrophy

Scientists believe they may be able to treat one form of muscular dystrophy by injecting a gene into patients' muscle cells.

Duchenne's muscular dystrophy (DMD), which affects one in 3,500 males, is caused by a DNA defect that stops the production of the protein dystrophin. It leads to a gradual weakening of muscles and premature death.

Scientists have discovered that when the dystrophin gene is injected into the muscles of mice which have the same genetic defect as people with DMD, the missing protein appears in the muscle fibres.

Researchers from Guy's Hospital, London, and Wisconsin University, USA, expect to start testing similar techniques on children with DMD within ten years.

But before they can do this they must find a way of delivering the genes to the muscle cells that need it, as it would be impossible to inject every muscle in the body individually.

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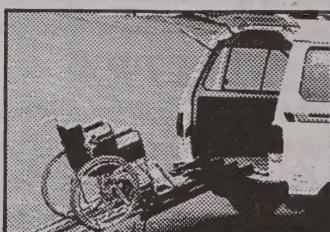
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The dragon that wants to talk

On his visit to China last month, Prime Minister John Major emphasised the need for dialogue with the People's Republic. China's socialist doctrines plus international ambition have already brought some improvements to the lives of its disabled people. Planned exchanges of people and information can do more. Rowan Simons reports.

-Three years into its first Five Year Work Programme for disabled people, launched in 1988 through the influence of Deng Pufang, disabled son of China's senior leader Deng Xiaoping, China has become the 133rd country to produce laws governing the rights of disabled people.

A major landmark in China's legal history, the Social Security Law for Disabled Persons came into force in May. It has fifty separate provisions. It also designates the third Sunday in May as "Help the Disabled Day."

For China's disabled people, officially estimated at nearly 52 million, but probably more than the entire population of the UK, the question remains: does this development herald practical improvements or is it just a glossy wrapping round traditional public prejudice?

According to the Minister of Civil Affairs, Cui NaiFu: "The law reiterates that disabled people enjoy equal rights with other citizens and that special assistance measures should be adopted to ensure their full participation in everyday life."

His assertion was received with mixed emotions - a principled call drowned out by China's frantic drive for industrial modernisation.

Announcements about free bus travel for blind people, now law in 62 cities, cannot help "comrades" buffeted about in the manic rush for spaces, let alone seats.

The one-child law may be relaxed for rural parents of disabled children, but infanticide and abandonment of disabled children are still widespread, even in urban districts. (The one-child policy will inevitably transfer responsibility for care from family to State. At the moment only those without relatives are guaranteed State benefits. But when communities have no brothers, sisters, aunts, uncles or cousins, the Communist Party will be the only extended family in the Chinese nation.)

The Government's habit of relying on positive propaganda - good news, exemplary projects - strengthens its collective hold on a society which often lacks the education or experience to appreciate the wider problems. Still, positive examples in the official newspapers often indicate real developments that will be repeated elsewhere.

Mental illness, for example, was first addressed in the national census of 1982 (when 10 million cases were recorded), and since 1985, when Chinese legislators began formulating mental health



Western handouts for children in a Shanghai centre. But China has something to offer: 5000 years of holistic skill.

laws, over 500 mental hospitals and research institutes have been established.

The advice of the international community has been welcomed, and last October a conference sponsored by the World Health Organisation and the Chinese Ministry of Public Health brought experts from France, Japan and the USA.

Positive propaganda also sets impeccable standards which will impress the outside world. But they must be met if China is not to lose face.

In July, for example, the China Organising Committee for the UN Decade for the Disabled called for rehabilitation treatment for at least 830,000 disabled people by September 1993. It also reaffirmed that education for disabled children should be incorporated into the compulsory education project, and instructed all provinces to establish at least one vocational training centre before 1992.

In major cities, more government funds are being allocated to disabled facilities and education centres. Last year, China's first Paralysis Hospital opened in the capital, Beijing, with army backing, and the city government announced plans for an extra 1m yuan (£108,000) a year for schools for disabled children.

Beijing boasts 18 adult associations for disabled people and officials claim that 64.5 per cent of disabled children attend special school or special classes in primary schools.

Since 1949, however, only 200 disabled people have graduated from further education colleges in Beijing and even now there are few signs of students.

Despite hindrances to academic achievement, large numbers of disabled people have the chance to improve

their artistic and athletic skills. China's ambition to be seen as a healthy nation and to secure a good international sports record has helped them.

The Chinese Association of Sports for the Disabled was founded in 1983 and organised National Wheelchair Games in 1984 and 1987. By using these events as preparation for the Seoul Paralympics in 1988 (where they won 17 gold medals), China could go on to become Asia's premier disabled sporting nation, taking a record 99 golds at the 5th Far

East & South Pacific Games for the Disabled in 1989.

Because of determined Government bidding for international sports fixtures, the 6th Far East Games will be held in Beijing in 1994, and China hopes to host the Olympics and Paralympics in the year 2000.

In the build-up to these events, when the Chinese authorities are placed under a bright international spotlight, we can expect a strong campaign to force the Chinese people into respecting disabled people.

The increased practical and financial support that often precedes such events is warmly welcomed by those working in China's welfare institutions.

Restricted by a shortage of hard currency, China's contribution to international dialogue largely depends on promoting "mutually beneficial" exchanges, paid for by sponsors or in kind - often medical theories and practice.

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acupressure, moxibustion, "gigong" breathing exercises, "tuina" massage therapy and Chinese herbalism the basis to challenge our own empirical theories and bring our obsession with the laboratory under fresh scrutiny.

Even with more western funding and all the benefits of Chinese medicine, positive propaganda cannot hide the staggering numbers needing treatment and education.

The China Disabled Persons' Federation reported last year that 64,000 disabled children could now attend special schools nationwide and new places were being created at the rate of 6,300 a year. Even with 10,000 new places a year, it will take China nearly 400 years to provide primary education for all disabled children.

Rowan Simons is director of Oriental Relations Ltd (ORL), a British-run consultancy which advises on Sino-British cultural relations and encourages UK companies with trading interests in China to sponsor projects. The first ORL initiative for disabled young people will bring together China's biggest children's welfare centre in Shanghai and SHAPE East in Bedfordshire. Information from Jane Pierini, tel: (04865) 2755.

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Leicester City Council

Flying Dutchmen beat Brits in final

Tim Russell reports

Holland beat Britain 3-0 in the final of the Cerebral Palsy Paralympic Qualifying Soccer Tournament in August.

It was the first time a British team had reached the final and means both nations will compete in next year's Paralympics.

A demonstration match at Notts Forest's City Ground between Holland and The Rest of the World kicked off the tournament. The 0-0 draw was played before Forest's match against Everton and was watched by over 20,000 fans.

British coach Bob Fisher said: "It was a tremendous tournament for Britain. We beat Ireland for the first time,

thrashed America 6-0 and made sure of a place at next year's Paralympics.

"It was a tall order to beat the Dutch, as they have not lost for five years, but we came closer than we have in the past."

The tournament was part of Nottinghamshire International Festival of Disabled Sport, which attracted more than 500 athletes from 20 nations and included events such as the European Disabled Volleyball Championships.

As expected, Poland won the standing volleyball competition and Holland took first prize in the sitting competition. Britain came sixth in both events.



Holland takes on Britain and wins, but both finalists will go to Spain in 1992.

JOHN BIRD'SALL

Crop of golds for swimmers

Britain dominated the European Swimming Championships in August, scoring 23 gold medals and breaking seven world records.

The championships were held in Barcelona, host to the 1992 Paralympics.

Chris Holmes, from Kidderminster, was our most successful swimmer, winning five gold medals, a silver and two bronzes. He said: "It was a great event and good prepara-

tion. We swam in the same outdoor pool that is to be used at the Paralympics."

The most successful female swimmer was Jane Stidever from Leicester who won a hat-trick of golds and two silvers. She also broke the world record for the 200m Freestyle.

A change in the championship's classification system meant that Jane, who has cerebral palsy, was able to compete against other disabled swim-

mers for the first time. Previously she has only been able to swim against other athletes who have CP.

"I was pleased to get three golds but I feel I can do better in the backstroke," she said. "It was the first time I had swum in an outdoor pool and I found the sun's glare affected my eyes. I will be training hard over the next few months as I'm keen to return next year for the Paralympics."

Scot wins archery

Scotland's Sandy Gregory broke his own tournament record when he scored 1,128 points at the National Disabled Archery Championships in August.

The two-day event, organised by the British Sports Association for the Disabled, took place at Dunchurch, near Rugby.

Gregory's winning score was four more than he scored at last year's championship and

enough to win him his second successive men's title.

Alf Weldon, from Wolverhampton, was runner-up for the second year running with 1,073.

Scotland's Alan Corrie was third with 1,003.

Denise Ramsey, from Buckinghamshire, took the women's title with a new record of 1,025, eight points ahead of Karen Newton from the East Midlands.

Ian sails into top spot

Leicester sailor Ian Harrison won the Loefler Trophy at the Milton Keynes Sunbird Regatta last month. He won all five races and is sure to be picked for the British disabled sailing team later this month.

"I was delighted that the

weather was so calm and still because it gave me an advantage over my rivals," said Ian, who raced in a 16ft, single-handed Sunbird boat.

Sheffield's Ken James came second, while Alan Smith from Leeds took third.

Bowlers hit the greens

Thirteen clubs from England, Scotland and Wales took part in the Lowestoft International Bowls Tournament for Blind and Visually Handicapped People last month.

Terry Pyke, from West Sussex, won the B1 competition for totally blind players. The B4 event for partially sighted players was won by London's David Mears.

Danish dressage

Denmark hosted the 2nd World Disabled Dressage Championships at the Vilhemborg Equestrian Centre in Jutland. Although the British team failed to win any gold medals, several achieved personal bests. The most successful riders were Elizabeth Stone, who won a silver medal and Bryony Dinnie and Jo Jackson, who took bronze.

Ton up for table tennis

More than 100 table tennis players took part in the British Sports Association for the Disabled's national championships in Reading in August.

The men's class six title was won by Bradford's David Hope, who beat defending champion Tim Heaps, from Reading, 21-15, 17-21, 15-21.

Melanie Davis, from Wellingborough, won the

women's class six final, beating Ann Smith, 21-17, 14-21, 21-18, in an exciting final.

Southern region won the team trophy by six points from Yorkshire and Humberside, with East Midlands and the North West joint third.

During the tournament, eight of England's top able-bodied players gave coaching sessions to disabled players.

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AS SEEN AT STAND 429 NAIDEX

**Richard Armitage
reports**

The Community Transport Association's (CTA) Annual Community Transport Event in September packed 41 training courses and seminars into a four-day programme, plus the largest annual indoor exhibition of accessible passenger transport and the Association's AGM and policy debates.

The Mobility Alliance estimates that at least 70,000 minibuses are run by voluntary or non-profit organisations in Britain, providing millions of passenger trips a year. Given the size of the market, it is not surprising that the show is supported by major vehicle manufacturers, such as Volkswagen, Leyland Daf and Iveco Ford.

Even so, the recession had taken its toll. Forty-five companies were there, hanging on grimly. But many had to be listed "missing, believed dead" (LHE, Phoenix, Dormobile, MTB, Wise Software, City Vehicle Engineering, The Crown Suppliers, BSTE), whilst others have experienced upheavals due to new ownership (Henderson Mobile, Metocab, Talbot Freeway) or factory closure (Reeve Burgess).

With companies being forced to look defensively at the short-term, investment in people, plant, design and development is most unlikely to be made.

Still, there were plenty of ideas for creating independence and mobility for all.

Kneeling vehicles

There were renewed efforts to introduce lowering (or "kneeling") technology, to give passengers a better ride and to try

MINIBUS & ACCESSIBLE TRANSPORT EXHIBITION



and avoid the passenger lift.

The ex-CVE Omni was back, now produced by the Omni Bus Company Ltd. Some operators claimed it goes so low at the rear that drivers do not need to use the small ramp when assisting wheelchair users on board.

Oughtred and Harrison had installed Hubmatik equipment on a Renault Master, already relatively low-floored due to front-wheel drive.

Paul Cassidy's Invatravel showed a prototype conversion of the VW Caravelle, now based on the all-new VW Transporter (front engined, front-wheel drive). Dunlop rear air suspension is being tried, and Paul has designed a spring-loaded, counter-balanced ramp for the rear entrance. The price of the ramp plus air suspension will be lower than the cost of fitting a lift.

Newcomers to the show, Rapidform, offered to fit air suspension to existing vehicles.

Passenger safety

Following media and consumer concern about the absence of passenger restraints in minibuses, Safety-Fit now offers a nationwide, on-the-spot service fitting all kinds of restraint belts to existing minibus seating. Prices from £25 (per belt fitted) for a two-point static lap belt to £53 for a three-point retractable "Minibus" lap and diagonal restraint, so there will be a ready market.

Safety-Fit's literature is exceptionally carefully worded: these restraints cannot act in the same manner as car safety belts, as the company cannot guarantee the seat nor its fixing to the floor.

To date, the Department of

Transport has been unable (or unwilling) to set standards for minibus seat strengths.

Technically, the vehicles and equipment now on the market have come a long way since the International Year of Disabled People ten years ago. The whole industry has had to become much more sophisticated in its approach.

Nowhere was this more evident than on the Unwins stand, where the new Rearlock wheelchair restraint was being shown complete with video footage of it being crash tested at Middlesex Polytechnic.

Watch your language

Guest speaker Ann Frye, who runs the Department of Transport's Disability Unit, opened with a broadside against suppliers and operators still labelling vehicles as "ambulances".

"It's insulting, it's offensive and it's unnecessary," she said. "Please don't do it. These labels have nothing to do with providing professional passen-

ger services for people with a mobility handicap."

She was severely critical of the European Commission's draft Directive on mobility for workers with impaired mobility: it will provide "some of the transport, for some of the time, for some of the people."

Instead, she envisaged "bland general statements" being replaced with technical legislation on vehicle design which would gradually force buses, trains and coaches to become accessible.

She welcomed the new CTA Advice and Information Line (tel or fax: 061-367 8780) funded by her Department, and looked forward to better relations between government and the voluntary transport sector.

Experiences of a wheelchair user

For the first time there was a two-day seminar for social services transport managers. The session on "Transport after



Pep talk: Ann Frye with (from left) Ed Passant, CTA treasurer and Steve Sears, chair of CTA.

RICHARD ARMITAGE

community care" was addressed by Jane Titherington, a Lancashire Polytechnic student, who works as a volunteer on Preston Community Transport's computer system.

A wheelchair user, Jane gave a graphic picture of her fight for independence and associated mobility.

Observing that "life goes on after four in the afternoon" (the time she used to arrive home from day care), she proposed better staff training, more flexible booking arrangements, improved vehicle specification and more choice of activities and care with the necessary transport provided.

Access-minded hotel

At the Norbreck Castle Hotel in Sheffield, staff understood customer requirements and were extremely helpful.

The hotel manager turned up to the plenary session asking for comments about access and any other aspect of the venue - a sharp contrast to the "we-know-best" attitude met at some universities in the past.

Further information from the CTA, tel: 061 351 1475.

Richard Armitage has worked in voluntary and non-profit passenger transport for 13 years and was general secretary of the CTA 1984-1990.



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Centres of optimism open their doors

Tim Russell reports on three new centres defying the recession and spending money on jobs, homes and rehabilitation

Mersey Regional Spinal Injuries Unit

Champagne and balloons marked the official opening of a new £6m centre for people with spinal injuries in Southport in July.

The Mersey Regional Spinal Injuries Unit's centre in Town Lane was paid for by Mersey Regional Health Authority. It is fully self-contained with its own physiotherapy and occupational therapy departments and is the only spinal injuries centre in the country to have its own intensive care unit.

Sophisticated computer equipment has been installed to let patients do things for themselves, like closing curtains, switching lights and the tv on and off and, if they are unable

to speak, to communicate with staff, family and friends.

As the new centre has only 35 beds, many patients are treated from home by the unit's nursing and occupational therapy staff.

The centre's business manager, Sandra Cribb, said: "Patients are often treated at home until they need surgery because of the limited amount of beds, but they are well cared for and computers and life support machines can be installed if necessary."

Facilities include a gym and swimming pool and patients can take computer courses at Southport Technical College or go to the sports club. The centre also owns a holiday cottage in the Lake District for patients who need a break.

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Up and away: users, families, friends and staff prepare for the big balloon launch in July.

The Shaw Centre

Only four months after officially opening, The Shaw Centre in High Wycombe has helped six out of 62 trainees find jobs. Many more have had work experience.

The centre gives courses on typing, computing, electronics, retailing, upholstery and life and communication skills to

nesses such as Sainsbury's and Asda, meets regularly to make sure the centre's courses provide the skills needed locally.

Trainees are given a 12 week assessment course.

"We get them to have a go at everything, and find out what they want to do," said centre manager Karen Clarke. "Then we draw up a plan of action and decide whether they could do with some further educa-

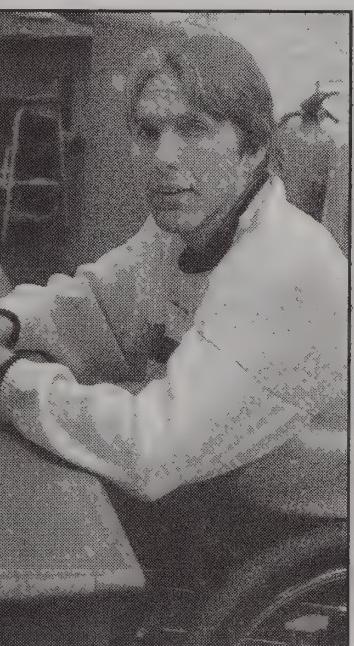
tion I want."

Bob Gerhardt, who has been blind for 12 years, is a part-time instructor at the centre. He trains people in social and communication skills, takes woodwork classes and runs the job club.

"This is just the sort of job I always wanted," said Bob, who took voluntary redundancy from his job as an engineer last year to join the centre.

"I took a big risk leaving my previous job but it was worth it as I am able to provide the trainees with the kind of help they need. I can relate to their problems and give them the benefit of my experience."

Sainsbury's area director Terence Wigley, who officially



Mark Fryer getting a buzz from electronics

TIM RUSSELL

young disabled people living in the Buckinghamshire area. It also provides a job club and literacy and numeracy training.

These courses have helped trainees get jobs in a local electronics firm, a supermarket and the arts group Shape.

The centre, which costs £120,000 a year to run, is jointly funded by Buckinghamshire County Council, Wycombe District Council, the Employment Rehabilitation Service and the Shaw Trust, which was set up eight years ago to help people with disabilities find the right job.

An advisory group with representatives from local busi-

nesses, need work experience, or are ready for a full-time job."

Mark Fryer, 26, wants a job in electronics, hopefully with Instron, a local firm.

"The centre is brilliant because it's so handy for me," said Mark. "I live locally and it's helping me to get the job I always wanted."

Andrew Davies, 28, wants to get a job in administration. He started a business course in August to give him the necessary training.

"I've already learnt some basic word processing skills at the centre," said Andrew, "but I am hoping the extra training at college will help me get the

"The centre is already succeeding in doing what it set out to do - getting real jobs for disabled people."

opened the centre in May, said: "The trainees get a lot out of the experience and we are only too glad to help."

The building used to be a workshop for an employment training scheme, but was taken over by The Shaw Trust last summer. The first training courses started in November.

Tim Pape, director general of the Shaw Trust, is delighted the centre is up and running.

"It took us six months to convert the building. It was a hard slog but it's been more than worth the trouble. The centre is already succeeding in doing what it set out to do - getting real jobs for disabled people."

The Shaw Centre, Lisle Road, High Wycombe, Buckinghamshire, HP13 5SH, tel: (0494) 473447.

Tollgate Road Project

A new residential project for people with visual and other disabilities has been opened by the Vision Homes Association (VHA) in Ludlow, Shropshire.

The Tollgate Road project cost £750,000. The Bromford Carinthian Housing Association gave £640,000, with the rest coming from the VHA.

It has five bungalows for 15 people. Three have moved in, and three more are to join them by October. Residents are taught by the 13 staff to cook, shop and live independently.

They have a communal lounge, hobby room and go swimming and horse riding. "They are given as much help as they require but the aim of the project is to make them as independent as possible," said VHA's director Ewa Stefanowska.

VHA was set up five years ago by Stephanie Pratt and Pat Edwards, who both have sons with visual impairments and other disabilities. "Our aim is to improve the quality of residents' lives by giving them the freedom and independence they deserve," said Mrs Pratt.

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DN10/91

Letters to the Editor

Disability Now, 12 Park Crescent, London W1N 4EQ

BT: not so rosy

You paint an extremely rosy picture of benevolent British Telecom generously offering people with disabilities free services (DN, March and September).

It may interest you to hear that ARCH, the Advice and Rights Project based at the Islington Disablement Association, has had a singularly negative experience when working with people in order to obtain a free directory enquiry service.

First, there has been much disquiet at the nature of the initial form.

Once again, people with disabilities have to get somebody else to certify that they are telling the truth when they say they have a disability, and that person has to tick a listed disability or, if you don't fit into the list, then fill in your disability under "other".

Second, there seems to be a long wait, often four to six weeks, and in some cases we have encountered over 3 months before you are notified. This is an awful long while to continue paying for a directory enquiry service when you are unable to use the printed telephone directory.

Third, and probably most important, in our experience people turned down for the free service receive their application form back with a scrawled note on the top saying "refused" and a rather patronising letter enclosing an

appeal form which must be returned within one month. This appeal form quite simply authorises BT to contact your doctor or hospital consultant for more information. When asked the reason for rejection, BT have explained that it may well be because "not everybody in the country with your disability would be unable to use a printed telephone directory and therefore we would be unable to offer you the service."

All the cases of rejection we have come across occurred when the "other" box was used. We have tried to obtain a written set of guidelines as to who decides and who is entitled to this service. To date we have been unsuccessful.

So, once again, here is a "free service" we are entitled to but have to fight for, and in the end the only people's word BT will believe are doctors and hospital consultants.

Marie Pye
Disability Rights Worker
Islington Disablement
Association
London N1

"We need legislation, not half-baked measures"

I have become increasingly concerned by the campaign for the Government's employment symbol.



The symbol originated from

the Government's consultative document, *Employment and Training for People with Disabilities*. On page 45 it states: "The government intends to put in place a ... symbol which employers could use on letterheads, job advertisements etc to express commitment to good policies and practices. There would be guidelines on its use. Employers themselves would judge whether their policies and practices met those guidelines. It is unlikely that an employer who was not keen to have applicants with disabilities would display the symbol."

I simply do not believe that employment issues should be dealt with, at whatever level, as charitable.

I believe that equal access to employment, regardless of individual and personal differences, is a right and not an act of benevolence.

The Government's suggestion that an employer who was not keen to have applicants with disabilities would not display the symbol is an acceptance of highly discriminatory recruitment and selection practices and is profoundly offensive.

Imagine a symbol that suggested you were prepared to employ women or black people, but it was acceptable not to use the symbol if you were not keen. There would, quite rightly, be an uproar.

Whenever the Government grants a symbol to anyone suggesting to the public that they have good policies and practices, eg health and safety, they must ensure that these symbols have value.

Where there are few

guidelines (the *Code of Good Practice* of course), no regulations, monitoring or evaluation, they are open to misuse or abuse.

I therefore ask myself, will the symbol encourage disabled people to apply for jobs? People with disabilities, like other groups, look for the statement about equal opportunities for the added encouragement to apply for posts, but above all we expect and demand non-discriminatory procedures as a matter of right, ideally through legislation.

I am sick and tired of this lip-service to the training and employment needs of people with disabilities. We need legislation not half-baked measures that reflect the insincerity of this Government.

Ruth V Redfern

Bradford

Orange sticks?

As someone who fairly recently joined the ranks of the disabled, I would be interested to know whether the orange badge scheme or at least the colour orange could be used on a more widespread basis.

For long enough white sticks have been associated with blind people and I wonder whether consideration could be given to the idea of painting sticks orange or attaching reflective orange tape, which would indicate that the user had a mobility problem.

In my experience, plain wooden sticks as issued by hospitals do not receive much notice from the general motoring public.

Neil Warner
Middlesbrough

sic

Bookish blunder

How good of the Library Association to hold a "Books for Disability" exhibition in London last month. It was open all day and the entry fee was only £1.

But all you bookworms could be excused for missing this opportunity to lounge amongst the literature because the venue, as it turned out, was not accessible to wheelchair users. Back to the drawing board.

Sending da boys round

The Merton Association For Independent Access has joined forces with Merton and Sutton Community Health Council in Surrey to produce a sterling investigation into the accessibility of local hospitals (£4.46, Merton and Sutton CHC, tel: 081-642 6405).

If they know what's good for them, the hospitals will remedy their mistakes pronto. The Merton Association For Independent Access isn't known as the MAFIA for nothing ...

Who rattled your cage?

Trying to get in to Chester Zoo proved a bit of a hairy experience for a party of 16 from Strathcona Theatre Company, ten of whom were disabled people.

When asked how many "patients" there were, Strathcona director Joan Greening said there were no "patients", just disabled people.

"Well that's what we call them here," came the reply as the assistant swiftly marked them down under the "children" heading on the form so they could get the concessionary price.

According to the North of England Zoological Society director Dr M R Brambell, "There is nothing in the price structure that offers concessions to people with disabilities. Such a generalised term would be impossible to manage."

With attitudes like that, it's no wonder the visitors, never mind the animals, go wild.

The joke's on him

What a strain it is being a trendy radical. Tom Bussmann, who comments on the world's goings on in *The Guardian*, is usually first in the queue with the shocking aside and the fierce quip.

What a surprise then to see the following under his by-line in the *Guardian Weekly* of 30 June: "Anyone singing 'I love London so' in public would be regarded as a certified nutter bunged out of a bin and put into the care of the community".

One trillion brownie points knocked off for that one, Tom.

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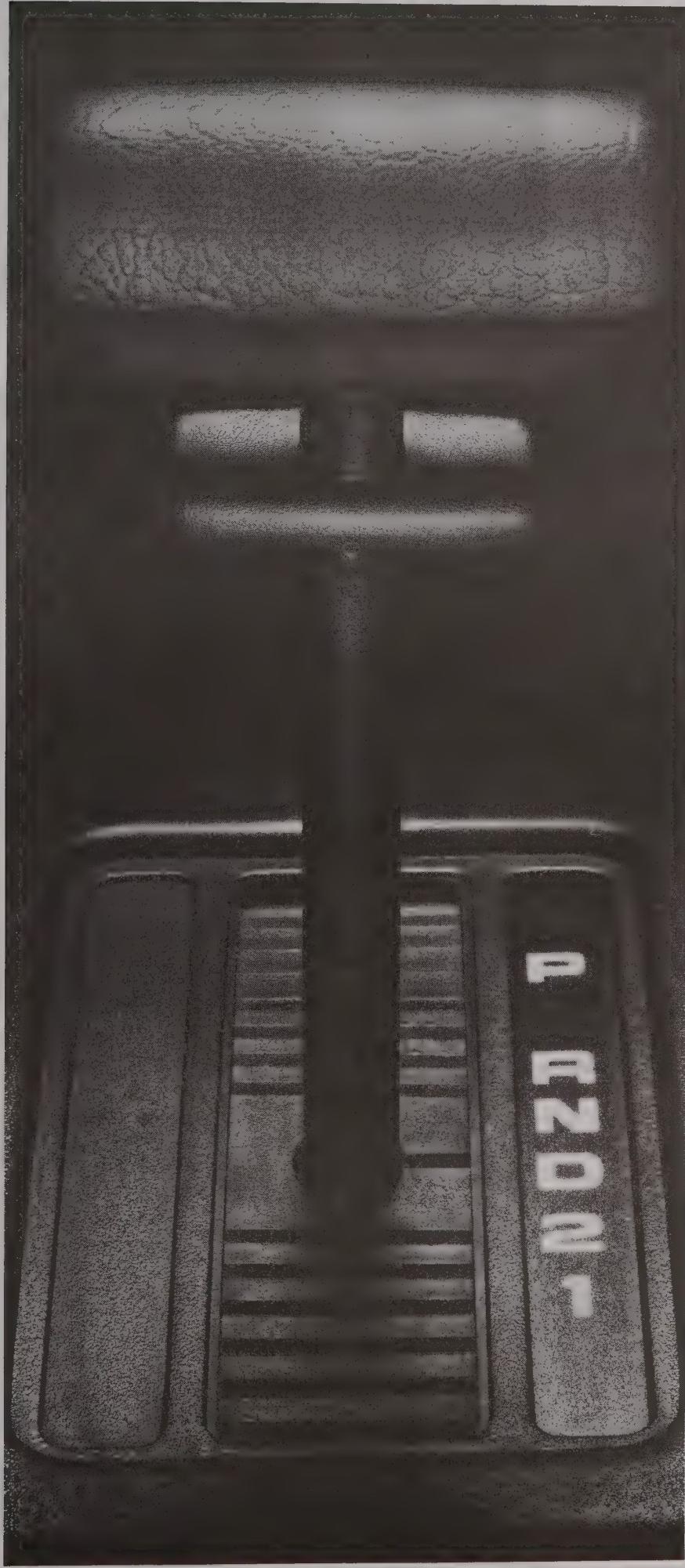
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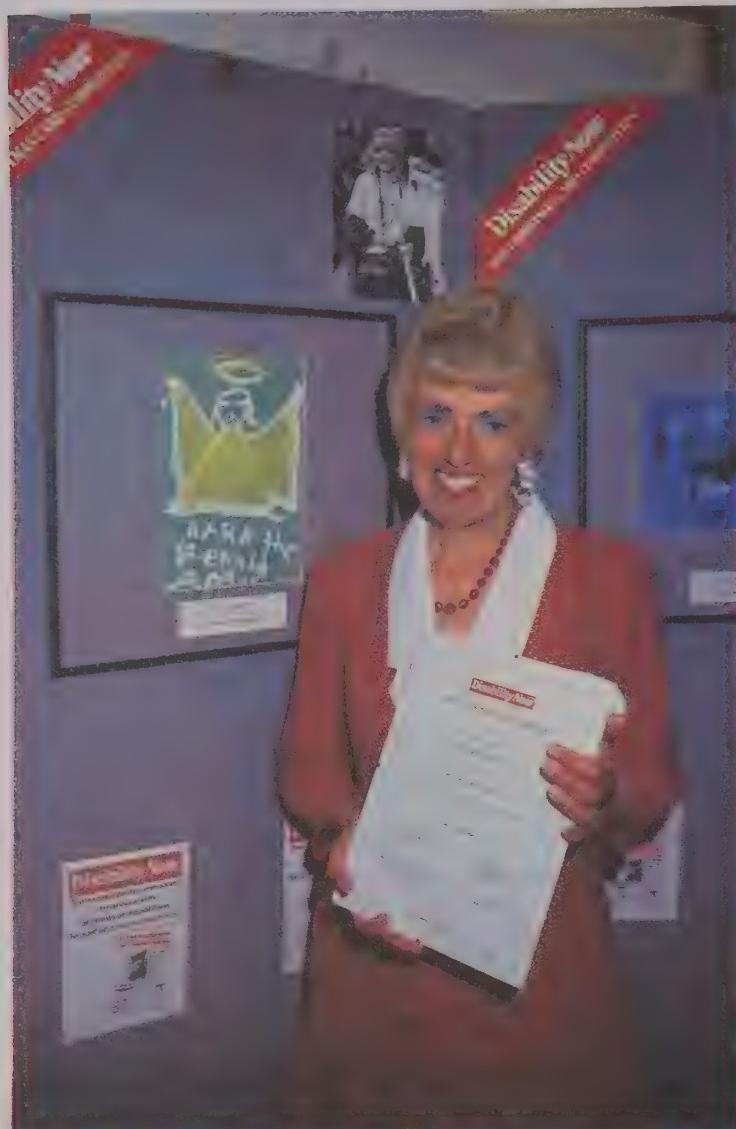
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Proud Mum: Mrs Marion Hart with Angela's certificate, winning design and photo of Angela.

GRAHAM BOOL PHOTOGRAPHY

Winners, runners-up, families, enablers, Minister for Disabled People Nicholas Scott, and the media all made their way to the House of Commons on Friday 6 September for the presentation of the 1991 *Disability Now* Christmas Card awards to disabled artists.

It was hard to keep your mind on Christmas as the sun

poured through the windows and the guests drank juice and wine under the hot lights of television crews.

After searching through over 400 entries, the judges had found two winners and four runners-up. Each winner gets a £100 prize and their design printed on 10,000 Xmas cards, and the runners-up get certificates.

Winner in the under-18 section was Lorraine Pugh 17, for "Silent Night". She left Craig-y-Parc school in Wales in July, and has now started at Bridgend Technical College.

As well as painting, Lorraine's other main hobby is "chatting to friends." Her £100 prize is going straight into the bank to buy Xmas presents.

The winner in the adult section was Angela Hart, 25, from Kent for "Angel".

Sadly, Angela died in August, but her mother Marion was there to pick up her prize. "I am very proud to be here," said Mrs Hart. "Angela would have been absolutely thrilled."

Angela visited Parliament when she was doing A Level politics and was involved with Greenpeace. As well as being an artist, she was also a photographer and video maker. "Angela came up against so many brick walls trying to get a career but she just kept going

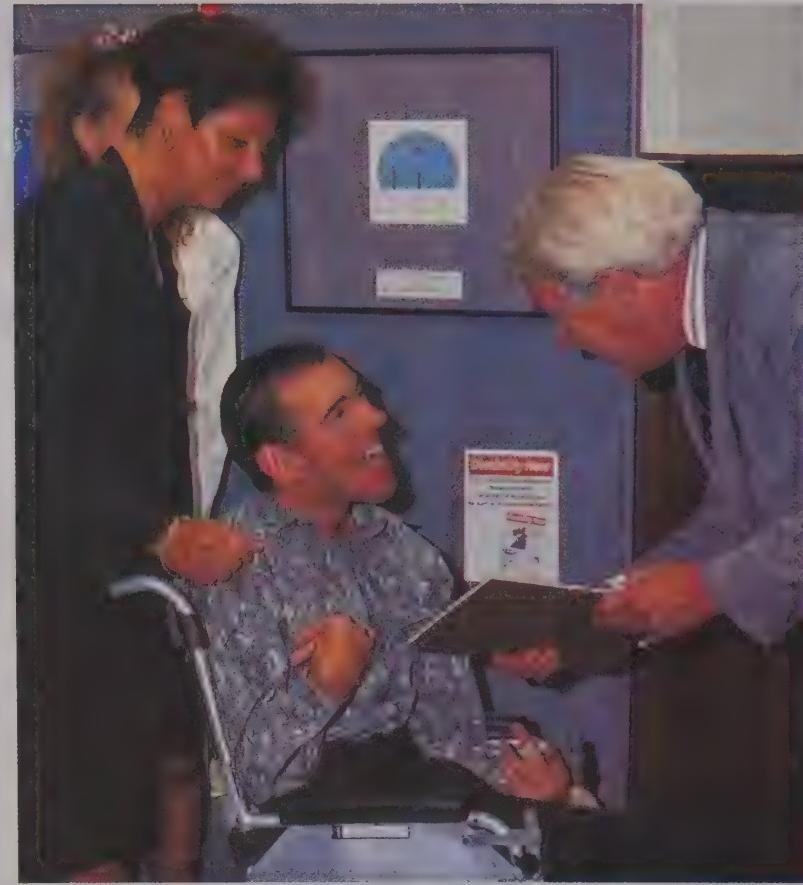
"The lively and sometimes very bold entries spoke to me of confidence, not of disability"- Richard Morphet

and making people more aware," said Mrs Hart.

The response in the family's home town of Sheerness has been "tremendous" said Mrs Hart. "So many people have asked for her cards, even people I meet in shops."

The Freedom Centre, where Angela took art classes, is to have her design on their cards this year and Mrs Hart is

Disabled artists



Marcus Baker receives his certificate from Minister Nicholas Scott

giving them the £100 prize to buy art materials.

St Giles school in Croydon cleared the board in the under-18 runners up category with Paul Smith's "Christmas World" and Sophia Francis' "Christmas Tree" (see right). Sophia, 11, was off on holiday but Paul, 13, was given a special day off school to come to the presentation.

Drawing ranks alongside Crystal Palace football club when it comes to Paul's passions. Armed with his season ticket, he's all geared up for a year among the rest of the fans at Selhurst Park.



Winner Lorraine Pugh, Minister for Disabled People (left) with the judges (from left):

Were you shortlisted?

Thirty-six competitors made it to the shortlist, and from them the final six were chosen. So good were the designs that we are printing your names.

Over 18s

- David Ashton, Carlisle
- Ian Barnett, Harrow
- Iris Beckworth, Stevenage
- Trudy Begg, Nottingham
- John Bicknell, Eastcote
- Pauline Clarke, Manchester
- Maureen Farish, Cockermouth
- Alan Gordon, Downpatrick, Northern Ireland
- Rachel Haverfield, Twickenham
- David Hewitt, Wirral
- Mary Johanson, Croydon
- Averil Marshall, Cleveland
- June Mills, Northwich
- Madeline Parker, Camberwell
- Hazel Parry, Portsmouth
- Michelle Quinn, Harrogate

Jason P Rees, Swansea
Audrey Scotchings, Oxford

Jack Stallard, Brentwood
Keith Taylor, Brentwood
Kathleen Ward, Tonbridge
Peter Warren, King's Lynn

Under 18s

- Davinia Buckley, Broadstairs, Vanessa Gillett, Croydon
- Jane Halliday and Lee Thomas, Newcastle-upon-Tyne
- Pejman Hassanian, Slough
- Naomi Hine, Loughborough
- Gemma Pink, Croydon
- Toby Woodman, Basingstoke

We hope to organise a touring exhibition. If we do, most, if not all the shortlisted work will be included. So we are holding on to your designs for the time being.

It was a full turnout for the runners-up in the adult section. "Nativity" was James Lankstead's second attempt at the *DN* Christmas Card Competition. James, 44, from Runcorn in Cheshire, also makes Xmas cards for a local church, St Stephens in Liverpool, as well as writing for the church magazine.

His full-time job is looking after his mum and dad who are both "semi-invalid."

Marcus Baker's picture, "Snowscene", attracted a lot of attention for its precision and stunning simplicity. Marcus, 22, from Hampton House in Northampton, is unable to use his arms or legs. Instead, he used a head pointer to create his design on a BBC computer

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how their ability



Snowscene", then gets ready for a practical demonstration.



Nicholas Scott and Spastics Society chairman Derek Ashcroft (second from left), Valerie Lang, Adam Reynolds and Richard Morphet.



and printed it by separating the colours on screen and overprinting with different coloured ribbons.

His computer had also been busy printing a letter to the Minister highlighting how little there is for disabled adults to do. He wrote: "I think it is good that children have a good education, but there is nothing after that, and every year the tv has *Children in Need*. What about adults in need?"

After welcoming Nicholas Scott and the visitors, Valerie Lang MBE, a member of the Spastics Society's executive

Runner-up (left): James Lankstead from Runcorn, Cheshire, with his bold "Nativity" and certificate.

council and one of the judges, said to the winners: "You should be terribly proud of winning this competition. We had over 400 entries which were all absolutely splendid. I hope you are going to be even prouder when you see them printed as Xmas cards."

She announced, "We hope to have an exhibition of a selection of the competing entries because it would be a terrible waste for them not to be seen."

Before presenting the awards, Nicholas Scott described the winning entries as "fantastic". "I congratulate the winners and, indeed, all those who took part in this competition. The standard of entry is most impressive and proves what all those involved in promoting the arts for disabled people believe - that disability need be no bar to artistic ability."

Over lunch winners could meet the men and women who had sat "in judgement" on them: Richard Morphet, keeper of the modern collection at the Tate Gallery London, Adam Reynolds, sculptor and *DN* art critic, Valerie Lang, and *DN* editor Mary Wilkinson.

All praised the quality of the designs. Richard Morphet said: "I was struck by the stimulating variety of the



Runner-up Paul Smith (13) and his "Christmas World"

entrants' approaches in terms of design, concept and technique. The lively and sometimes very bold entries spoke to me of confidence, not of disability."

Adam Reynolds, who has his own gallery, said: "Some people might say 'oh well, it's very good considering', but some of it could easily have been done by an expressionist artist selling at £20,000 a

piece."

Spastics Society Chairman Derek Ashcroft was all in favour of a travelling exhibition: "There is no way we shouldn't be publicising these sort of talents."

Nicholas Scott said any artist would say they don't get enough exposure. "But", he added, "this and the Mencap exhibition are signs that attitudes are changing."

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**Outsiders by the
Collar and Tie
Theatre Company
and Other Voices**

Directed by Richard Hayhow and described in the programme as a "fantasy", *Outsiders* shows the main characters setting up an alternative way of living because they feel outside "normal" society.

Half the cast were people with learning difficulties, with the other half being non-disabled performers.

Sometimes it took a bit of



Outsiders: not professional disabled people, just actors

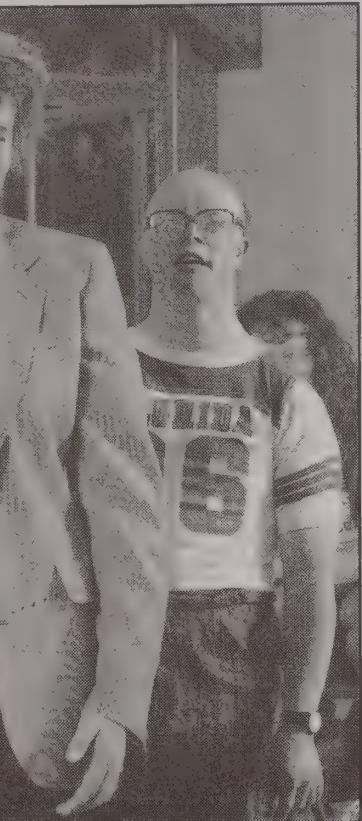
concentration to make out what the actors were saying, but there was always someone on stage to give a little help if it was needed.

The people with learning difficulties acted just as themselves and it worked. Carol Davis was particularly good, delivering her lines clearly with a lot of conviction.

A lot of the actors in Other Voices Theatre Company have been members for years, like Martin Birch who played Albert. He has been acting for five years, and was very good in the role.

Outsiders was written by the

actors themselves and that contributed hugely to the natural acting style. There haven't been many opportunities for people with learning difficulties to share their feelings and thoughts with other people. A play written like this is a brilliant way of teaching the public that people with learning



difficulties have their own views and opinions.

The two companies got together as an education project, mainly touring schools and setting up workshops. They worked so well together, they decided to run the play during the Festival.

To quote Graham, one member of the group: "We are not professional disabled people. We are professional actors."

This was first class entertainment and I hope more theatres set up projects like this, which really knock the stereotype image of people

with learning difficulties not being integrated into so-called "normal" society.

Carol Graham

**Out of Mind
by the Northern
Theatre Company**

Performed by students of Wyke Sixth Form College in Hull, this musical drama begins with Tony, who has cerebral palsy, staying in a nursing home ruled over by an overbearing matron who is indifferent to her patients.

Mary and Gordon become Tony's salvation when, during their holidays, they help in the home and befriend him.

Mary wants to communicate with and get to know Tony, but Tony has problems coming to terms with this.

Undaunted, they venture out into the big wide world and encounter ignorance and prejudice wherever they go. For example, an old woman complains to Mary at the sight of Tony "twitching" through a sermon at church, and when Tony is left alone at a party a group of yuppies start to pour alcohol down his throat.

All this may sound - and partly the show was - overly sentimental and stereotyped. But the realistic portrayal of Tony and the show's direct style overcame this.

The story ends with Mary and Graham embracing and Tony looking on, once again by himself.

A blunt image on which to end, but then the show had a blunt message to convey: this is a modern era with the same old attitudes and, despite technology, some of the biggest barriers remain.

Alan Connell

**Streets Ahead by the
Streets Ahead
Theatre Company**

I first saw Edinburgh amateurs Streets Ahead when they started out a few years ago. With so many people with walking difficulties getting on and off the stage at the same time, I realised how much hard work and organisation went into the production.

Although you could describe *Streets Ahead* as a play with a thin storyline running through it, it was more like a series of humorous skits joined together by the story of a group of pals talking about their experiences as disabled people.

The leading man was Kevin Dakens who has already acted professionally with Edinburgh's Theatre Workshop. The other three actors in the scenes were Peter Mould, Dennis Isaac and David Simpson.

I was fascinated by the quickness of the scene changes. Director Alan Connell and assistant director Kirsty McAdie obviously worked hard getting it all organised.

The show was an entertaining, amusing and colourful production and, at about an hour, just the right length of time.

Streets Ahead also ran a play in the "Spring Fling" earlier this year. With their membership expanding, this is one company which keeps getting better.

Carol Graham

**Whose Life is It
Anyway? by
the Edinburgh
Youth Theatre**

Directed by Steve McDowell, *Whose Life is it Anyway?* - played at an accessible venue - a rarity at the Festival.

A spokesman from the theatre company said the play was picked "because there aren't many parts for young people and there's no one in the theatre company older than the age of 23."

That may be true, but these actors were too young to be lawyers, doctors and judges, all important roles in the play.

The judge was obviously played by a young woman in a grey wig who wasn't very convincing.

But when the same actress, Lyn Gilchrist, played the ward sister (a part more suitable for a young woman) she did so with humour and acted well.

The young man lying paralysed in the hospital bed is a captive audience for mostly professional people ladling out well-meaning advice on how to live the rest of his life. We've all encountered these kinds of "experts" who assume they know what's best for "the poor, disabled person".

None of their patter persuades him that life is worth living. But then he wasn't looking for guidance in the first place. He knew exactly what he wanted: to end his life, and he goes to court to fight for the right to do so.

The moral of the play isn't whether he could have lived as a disabled person.

Rather, the message is that we should respect someone's

right to do what he wants with his life.

David Russell Kelly played the lead with humour and strength. He's a good actor, although he would have been more convincing if he had been disabled himself. But then again, he was just lying in a bed; he wasn't trying to walk "like a disabled person" or perform "like someone with cerebral palsy".

It was a play that made you think, if you want to think about such things. I would rather see something that shows disability in a more positive light.

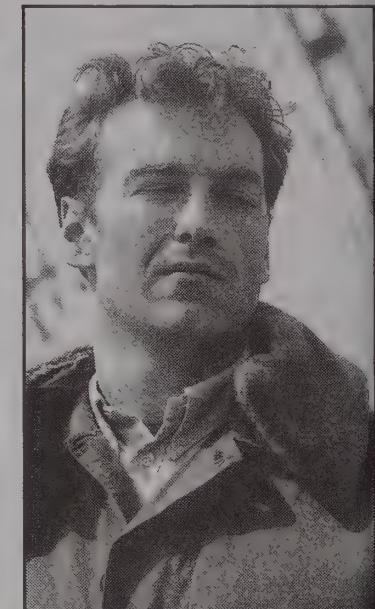
Carol Graham

**Borderland by
Birds of Paradise**

Breaking down barriers was the theme for this company's first professional production.

Borderland, a drama set in post-revolutionary Romania with a cast of disabled and able-bodied actors, was intense and moving, but it also had some wickedly black humour in it.

The story of an immigrant Hungarian family's struggle against victimization, it was filled with dramatic twists and turns: love, loyalty, betrayal,



Jim Convey: paradise bird

BRIAN LOCHRIN

and political and family confrontation.

I was drawn in by the rapport, the sincerity and the commitment of the cast and by the use of "disabled movement". For example, in one novel and cunning move, matriarch Madam Martinu passes her wheelchair over the body of her son, draping a flag over him.

The small cast, with music from a lone violin, created a gripping atmosphere with the minimum of props. The haunting music and song conveyed the traditional values and traditions that were being brutally wrecked.

This kind of theatre, dealing with contemporary issues, and promoting disability on equal terms, is challenging and innovative. It's a pity it is so rare.

Alan Connell

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Regarding Henry: terrific or tosh?

Regarding Henry (12) is a portrait of a non-disabled person dealing with the transition to being disabled, set against a cliche-ridden backdrop of family traumas.

Another *Henry* (*Portrait of a Serial Killer* - a disturbing picture), has also been on release, causing the censors much consternation. But for me, it's *Regarding Henry* which

supposedly "liberal" film, why are all the affluent folk white, while the principal Afro-American character crops up

FILM

as a "servant"?

The physical side of rehab shows the disabled person in

all this tosh would take on some sort of meaning.

As the film is also about the family being the one thing you can rely on, *Henry's* renewed love for his seemingly ever-faithful spouse Sarah is put to the test when he discovers she once had an affair with his ex-workmate Bruce.

The soppiness is unrelenting. Sarah says it's all



Healing hand: darling daughter Rachel (Mikki Allen) turns faith healer for dearest daddy.

should be under scrutiny for offensive material.

Henry Turner (Harrison Ford) is a rich, ruthless lawyer with an expensive apartment, lovely wife and daughter and a mistress to boot.

One night he has the misfortune to walk slap-bang into a corner shop raid and gets himself shot, receiving a near-fatal head wound to the right frontal lobe. As a result, his brain is starved of oxygen for a long period, affecting his speech, his memory, and motor skills.

After this, it's "let's show the punters what rehab Hollywood-style is like". The physiotherapist, Bradley, is infuriatingly bright, breezy (doesn't this guy ever have an off-day?) and black. (In a

the classic heroic mould, *a la* Douglas Bader, struggling to take those first tentative steps before triumphantly reaching for the sky.

The process of re-learning mental skills means the director, Mike Nichols, can go for laughs at the expense of disability. For example, Henry behaves like an overgrown schoolboy in the library, flicking screwed up paper at his studious daughter. Hilarious!

Then, we have a miracle. Henry, with the help of his darling daughter, relearns the ability to read in two easy lessons. At this point credibility is well and truly strained. I found myself hoping that something - anything - would go wrong so

over. Henry suffers a bout of angst and forgives her. Then it's off to liberate the daughter, incarcerated in a boarding school, and a perfect family reunion ensues with everyone living happily ever after.

Henry, the legal shark, undergoes metamorphosis and becomes a big, lovable, helpless bear. Hubby and wife are reconciled. The family has never been more content. Disability has, only too simplistically, led to enlightenment.

This is harmful stuff: an apparently innocuous family drama is allowed to ride roughshod over disability issues by passing as wholesome family entertainment.

Andy Kimpton-Nye

VIDEO

DN film critic Andy Kimpton-Nye's top five*:

1. RUSSIA HOUSE (Warners) Unlikely romance between Sean Connery and Michelle Pfeiffer heats up post-cold war spy tale.

2. MILLER'S CROSSING (CBS/Fox) Irish and Italian mobsters clash in an excellently intricate gangster movie.

3. POSTCARDS FROM THE EDGE (RCA/Columbia) Drug

addicted actress (Meryl Streep) is stifled by alcoholic mum (Shirley MacLaine).

4. CYRANO DE BERGERAC (Artificial Eye) Swashbuckling period tale of Cyrano and his long-nose fighting prejudice to find love.

5. Q & A (Virgin) Another police story from director Lumet telling of racist cop and idealistic assistant DA.

*Chart courtesy of *The Video Palace*.

TV



I don't often comment on *See Hear!* because, as a hearing person, I am not qualified to argue on

deaf issues. But in the first of their programmes with a viewer as presenter (BBC1, 8 Sept) Paul Redfern tackled BBC programmes which cater for "cultural minorities".

Overall it was well argued, and I applaud *See Hear!* for inviting in viewers. But when Paul examined the only other BBC programme which has sign language interpretation regularly, there was a flaw.

Having shown surprise that *One in Four* is for a general audience, he said he doesn't watch it: he sees himself as part of a linguistic minority, not as disabled. Why can't he be part of the general audience, particularly when the programme is linguistically accessible? If a linguistic minority is oppressed because the majority fails to include its language, then it is being disabled by society. If more of the deaf community accepted this, there would be greater solidarity between the deaf and disabled political movements.

We Are The Champions (BBC1, 5 Sept) has survived the loss of the late Ron Pickering. Now presented by Gary Lineker, it gives children with severe impairment the chance to take part in competition. It's a shame this is just for half-an-hour a year

and the competitors get no chance to speak for themselves.

The events in *Champions* are not orthodox sports.

Wheelchair basketball, of course, is; and has never been better represented on screen than in *The Big 8* (C4, 17 Aug, for six weeks) Its style of presentation is no different from other sports series. Just straightforward competition. I hope it converts viewers to the sport, so if there's another competition next year a bigger crowd will watch.

There's a world of difference between the value of *The Big 8* and those of *Our Olympics* (C4, 15 & 22 Aug)

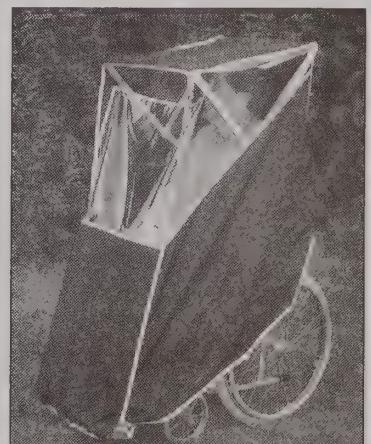
- last year's Special Olympics held in Glasgow. The programme should have concentrated on competitors and their sports. Instead, nine-tenths of it was about the emotional ups and downs of two competitors' mums! Another case of a production team losing confidence about portraying people with learning difficulties.

1991 is a key year in disability programming. On the positive side, *See Hear!* is 10 years old and has been given extra screen time. And *One in Four*, now 5 years old, will become part of a new BBC Disability Programmes Unit (staffed mainly by disabled people), transmitting fortnightly from next Spring.

On the negative side, this year sees the end of *Listening Eye* and *Same Difference*. Although there will be a Disability Season on Channel 4 in '92, I hope this doesn't mean a shift away from series programming for deaf and disabled audiences.

Chris Davies

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Signed Dracula at the Sherman Theatre, Cardiff. 4 November. (0222) 230451.

My Army, a one man show by deaf actor Tim Barlow. Redbridge Drama Centre, London. 17-18 October. 081-504 5451.

Leeds International Film Festival. 11-26 October. Also seminar on access. (0532) 478308.

BOOKS

After Fortune Green
by Fred Nailer
(The Book Guild Ltd, 25 High Street, Lewes, Sussex. £11.50)

Reading this was like re-living much of my early experiences of driving and of being disabled. Fred Nailer was as much part of the post-war disabled driver scene as the vehicles which smoked and spluttered down leafy lanes and less-clogged townships.

Born in Fortune Green, West Hampstead, in the middle of the general strike, his early life was like most young boys'. Living near a main railway line instilled an interest in trains which remained with him forever.

At 12 polio struck and Fred's life of disability began with years of hospitalisation, which included a spell in an iron lung, followed by a gradual return to build life anew with a wheelchair as his main source of mobility.

Hospitals were pretty hard places to be then, but they had character and individuality of a kind we shall never see again. (Does anyone smuggle comics in *en masse* to children's ward today, I wonder?)

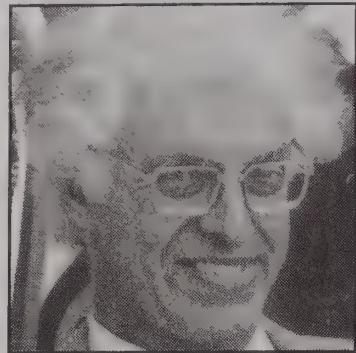
Fred's ward, like mine, had one side permanently open to the elements. Such places more resembled a multiple farm implement shed than a hospital ward, and the leaking rivets of the metal handles in the tin mugs made them more suited to being used as missiles (which they often were, the recipients being those less favoured in your personal friendship list).

Fred's disability was made worse for want of proper care, leaving him with a severe spinal curvature which was to be the curse of his life ever after.

Much of Fred's adult life was involved with the Disabled Drivers' Association (DDA), and it is to members of this

organisation that the main body of this volume will be most meaningful. To the rest, whilst offering a wonderful insight into what it was to be a disabled driver in the '50s and '60s (and indeed before), many things will mean little.

It would have been helpful to have photographs or illustrations of equipment. The assumption that because you experienced these things everyone knows about them, is particularly destructive to the writer trying to reach a new



Fred Nailer: son of Fortune

audience. And assuming the DDA is known by all is another mistake because there are many young handicapped drivers today with no allegiance to any such group.

I met Fred only briefly just a couple of years ago. I felt then that he was more worldly than his book would lead us to believe. It is what is missing which perhaps gives a better insight as to his real attitude. Why no Disabled Drivers' Motoring Club? What of the fight to retain the invalid car on which his life was surely built, and which he appeared to hang on to right up until the '80s, when he opted to use his trusty "trike" for a visit to Buckingham Palace, leaving his adapted car at home? Perhaps

Book news

Karen's Diary is a true account of one woman's feelings and experiences after an accident left her husband with severe head injuries. (£2.50, Headway, 200 Mansfield Road, Nottingham NG1 3HX.)

Want to know more about aids and equipment, house and home, holidays, sex, the law ...etc, etc? *The Directory for Disabled People* by Ann Darnbrough and Derek Kinrade (£19.99, Woodhead Faulkner Ltd), could be your one stop information shop.

Parkinson's Disease: a practical guide by Dr Harvey

he felt ashamed that he still loved it and used it when the organisation which bestowed on him the editorship of its national magazine had done its damnedest to get rid of it.

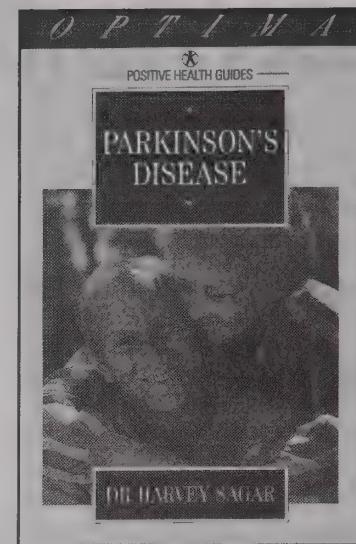
Alas, Fred died shortly before the book was published, so we shall never know. As it is, despite some shortcomings, *After Fortune Green* is a story sprinkled with graphic outlines and the humour of a man striving to come to terms with a lifetime of disability, and quietly, unflamboyantly, largely succeeding.

David Griffiths

Heaven on Wheels

by Firdaus Kanga
(Bloomsbury, £15.99)

Firdaus Kanga has everything going for him. He is from Bombay, he has brittle bones, and he is gay. He should be the darling of the left. Unfortunately, his politics are very right wing, and his heroine is Margaret Thatcher!



Sugar (£6.99 Macdonald Optima), is for people with the

condition and their families. As well as examining the latest drug treatments, it looks at how to overcome everyday problems.

New on the taped book front from Random Century this month is Conan Doyle's *The Valley of Fear* read by Christopher Lee. If you don't fancy being frightened you can lose yourself in a little P G Wodehouse, with *Leave it to P Smith*, read by Martin Jarvis. Or go from the past to the future with Margaret Atwood's *The Handmaid's Tale*, read by Julie Christie. All £7.99 from bookshops.

candidly and with humour, but comes through it all with his prejudices intact, dismissing the views of those who disagree with him, and most people seem to, with consummate ease.

Do not read this book expecting to have your radical views on disability endorsed.

The only things about which Kanga is radical is gay rights. Read it as a testament to what it is like to be disabled in India and suddenly find yourself in an environment where life is easier, and Kanga's view of being disabled in Britain begins to make sense.

Finally he visits Cambridge, where he meets Stephen Hawking. He tells Professor Hawking that he finds him "an inspiration beyond cliche." Professor Hawking does not reply. Like the rest of Britain he sees Kanga, they talk, but there is no real exchange of ideas. They take their separate paths to truth.

Glynn Vernon

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Happiness is ... a wet nose and a wagging tail

Relationships (9): Debbie Parry lives, works and travels with her dog Elton. She tells DN why he is also her best friend

When I was first told about the charity Dogs for the Disabled, I thought that all my Christmases had come at once. My happiest moment was when I learnt I was right.

To appreciate what Elton means to me you have to understand what life was like before.

When I was 14 my skull was fractured and my spine twisted in an accident. After several leg operations, I now get around on crutches and use a wheelchair for long distances.

The days on my own were empty and frightening. I had nothing to do but watch TV all day and had no-one to talk to. I rarely went out and if I did people gave me a wide berth as if they didn't want to know.

I felt nothing could ever replace what I had lost when I became disabled. It was hard to believe that I wouldn't have to worry about being unable to get to the phone before the caller rang off, struggling to pick up accidentally dropped articles which were out of reach, or getting help if I was in danger. After being disabled for over five years I had accepted, reluctantly, that I would always find such things difficult or impossible to do.

Then, 11 months ago, a three year old Labrador came into my life. Although Elton helps me with the things I can't do for myself, the greatest happiness he has brought me is that he is my best friend.

Life with Elton makes being disabled so much easier to cope with. For example, bringing in the milk from the doorstep was a major problem. Elton has been trained to bring it in in a carrying crate (the handle has been covered with soft foam so he doesn't hurt his mouth).

He is also trained to activate an alarm cord which I have in all the rooms at home. This gives me a great sense of

"To appreciate what Elton means to me you have to understand what life was like before"

security as I know if I am in any danger Elton will pull the cord to get help.

The post and the newspapers are no longer a problem either as Elton brings them to me. He will also bark on command to alert someone's attention or to warn someone of his presence.

Elton wasn't the only connection I was to have with Dogs for the Disabled. In July they asked me to join their small team as a regional fundraising executive (Midlands). Now I travel all over the country, taking Elton with me (we went to Bute in Scotland last month, ferry trip and all). When we're out together people are happy to

come over and talk - although it's usually Elton they want to talk to!

Dogs for the Disabled has continued to grow and help more disabled people. At the end of last year its founder and director general Mrs Frances Hay died aged 41. Fran, disabled herself, was a remarkable lady who fought to set up the charity and get it registered. She couldn't understand why there was no such charity to help disabled people. This year, Dogs for the Disabled celebrates its fifth anniversary. So far it has placed 25 working dogs with people with various disabilities, including children and wheelchair users.

I get a great deal of satisfaction from being able to raise money for the charity and see other disabled people get independence, happiness and companionship from a dog.

The dogs can cost up to £2,500 to train and any disabled person can apply. We pride ourselves in matching dogs to people. For example, if someone had asthma we would recommend a poodle because they don't moult.

Like Elton and I, dogs and owners soon establish a bond of friendship and understanding which is unique. And the disabled person will get that precious feeling of independence which



Pals together: Debbie Parry and Elton

HEART OF ENGLAND NEWSPAPERS

people who are not disabled may take for granted.

Some people might think it isn't fair to have a dog working for you 24 hours a day, but Elton seems happiest when he's "working". With my fiance Tim, me and our budgie Sapphire, he has a full, happy family life like any other dog.

Without Elton, being disabled might have put a full stop on my life. With him, I can live life as I choose.

For an application form send a SAE to Dogs for the Disabled, Edmondscoate Manor, Warwick New Road, Leamington Spa, Warwickshire CV32 6AH.

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Ask your local Renault dealer for details of the Renault Disabled Motorists Programme, special finance terms and any required modifications, or return the coupon below.



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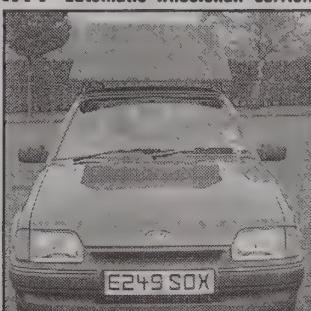
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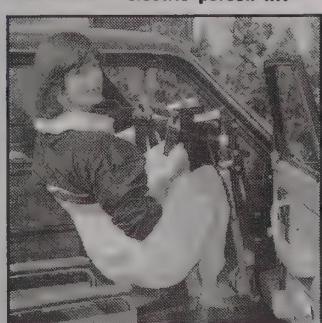
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We all need a roof over our heads but how difficult it can be to maintain that roof, those walls, the drains and all the rest.

Being short of money, as so many disabled people are, means repairs don't get done when things start to go wrong and the problems just get worse. In an age of DIY it makes life particularly difficult when you cannot do repairs and maintenance for yourself.

One reader, for example, has problems with her boundary wall which fronts the roadway and which is considered by the local authority to be defective and a hazard.

The council says it must be put right at once, even though the owner is disabled and has no money to employ a handyperson to repair it.

The council may not actually have responsibility for this property, but in circumstances such as these they should be able to call on groups in the community who would be prepared to help.

In many parts of the country there are Home Improvement Agencies, often called Care and Repair or Staying Put schemes.

Home Improvement Agencies are projects which help elderly, disabled, or other low income households to repair, improve and adapt their homes. Agencies employ people to visit and advise

Share Your Problems

with Ann Darnbrough

Building a home to fit around your needs



people in their own homes, arrange and supervise whatever building work is needed and help to find and organise the money to pay for it.

As well as giving advice, Home Improvement Agencies work closely with local authority housing and social services departments, building societies, the Department of Social Security, local builders and many other organisations to bring together an effective service.

If you are on a low income and need help of this sort, contact your local authority to see if there are any schemes of this kind in your area. Or you could contact Care and Repair, the national co-ordinating body who will let you know if there is a Care and Repair or Staying Put scheme near where you live.

While we're on the subject, if your home is not very convenient for you to manage,

you could apply for a Disabled Facilities Grant.

This new grant is designed "to help make the home of a disabled person more suitable to live in and to help the person live more independently in the home."

To be eligible you must either be registered or registrable as a disabled person, although someone with a disabled person living in their home can apply. The grant can cover:

- * improving access into and out of the home
- * improving access to the living room, bedroom, kitchen and bathroom
- * providing suitable kitchen and bathroom facilities
- * adapting the heating and lighting controls
- * and improving and adapting the dwelling so that the disabled person can care for a dependant.

For more information about

the Disabled Facilities Grant, apply to your local authority housing or social services department.

How many people reading this column would welcome the prospect of dealing with the problems that setting up a home either alone or with a partner represents? Such a goal may seem beyond your reach. And yet many disabled people have shown it can be done. I would be very interested to hear from readers who have achieved this: how they set about making it possible and what help they received. Were you seeking to leave an institutional home or your parents' home?

I know that some people have had the opportunity of attending independent living programmes arranged by a variety of organisations. Have any readers experienced these and, if so, how helpful did you find them?

Do write and let me know how you moved forward from first the dream of independent living, through to overcoming the obstacles, finally to achieving the reality of living in your own home with the necessary care support you need. Your experience could help others to follow suit.

The Hampshire Centre for Independent Living, which is run by disabled people, has published two very useful guides on the subject. *One Step*

On is the story of three young disabled people who, while living in a residential home, decided to work together to each find personal homes of their own. The ways they achieved this are carefully described.

Source Book Toward Independent Living is designed to help disabled people assess their needs for care support and then approach agencies for the money to pay for it.

One Step On and Source Book Toward Independent Living cost £4 each plus £1 postage and packing. The two books are available as a package for £7 plus £1 postage and packing from Mark Walsh, 31 Churchfield, Headley, Bordon, Hampshire GU35 8PF.

Sizzling secrets

"If I were you, I'd join the over 50s lunch club," said my friend Harry, my companion in the French class.

"But what about my disability?" I asked.

"They'd give you something to do sitting down," replied Harry.

When I arrived, the Clan were already there, about 10 women and five men, not one of them a day under 60.

The teacher said: "Today we'll have leek soup. The main course will be chicken chasseur. Ben, you will do the cabbage with Betty. (Betty was a blue rinse matron of 70.)

Teacher went on: "Now the shortcake rounds with currants and hazelnuts, that's the department of the terrible twins, Jean and Mary."

All this for £1 and 2p towards next week's menu!

Soon everywhere was a hive of activity and the sound of chopping, sizzling and the warmth of gas filled the air. I was cutting up cabbage with Betty - no mean feat. Cabbage for 17 takes up a lot of room.

Betty's swift strokes with a sharp knife had to be admired. They were interjected with a dirge that her net curtains wanted cleaning, but she would not take them down because the man opposite would be able to peep in.

"Chef of the day" Octavia was a stout woman. Her helpers seemed to have been relegated to salt and pepper carriers, cowering in the background and standing well away from her mallet.

A man called Aubrey discovered that I attended French classes and soon we were talking in fluent French, La Grande Dame cropping up frequently in the conversation - meaning Teacher of course.

Octavia had gone a deep shade of red, no doubt caused by the basting of the chicken - or was it the wine?

The shortcake biscuits were well done, like slices of black pudding. Rather ambitious for the over 50s considering most of them had dentures. The soup was too salty, the chicken chasseur lacked wine, potatoes beautifully shaped, buttered cabbage excellent.

Weeks later I was in the foyer waiting for the French classes to start when Teacher came in. "We didn't do anything to upset you, did we?"

"No", I replied. "I just found it too physical."

"Well, that's a new one on me," she said. "Still, cabbage shredding can be rather hard if you are not used to it."

"Au revoir, Ben," she added, with a twinkle in her eye.

"Au revoir La Grande Dame. Bon appetit."

Ben Clarke

Win
a £5 prize

Create-a-caption-time

Fearless Roy Williams of the South East Surrey Spastics Group parachuted 7,000 feet for charity* in August. What was he saying (screaming?) as he went down? Answers please by 10 October, address page 2.

* Mr Williams was raising money for Chalkmead, the home where his father lives, and his group. To make a donation or see the video tel (0737) 766374.



...NEWS QUIZ ... NEWS QUIZ ... NEWS QUIZ ... NEWS QUIZ ... NEWS QUIZ ... Answers page 25

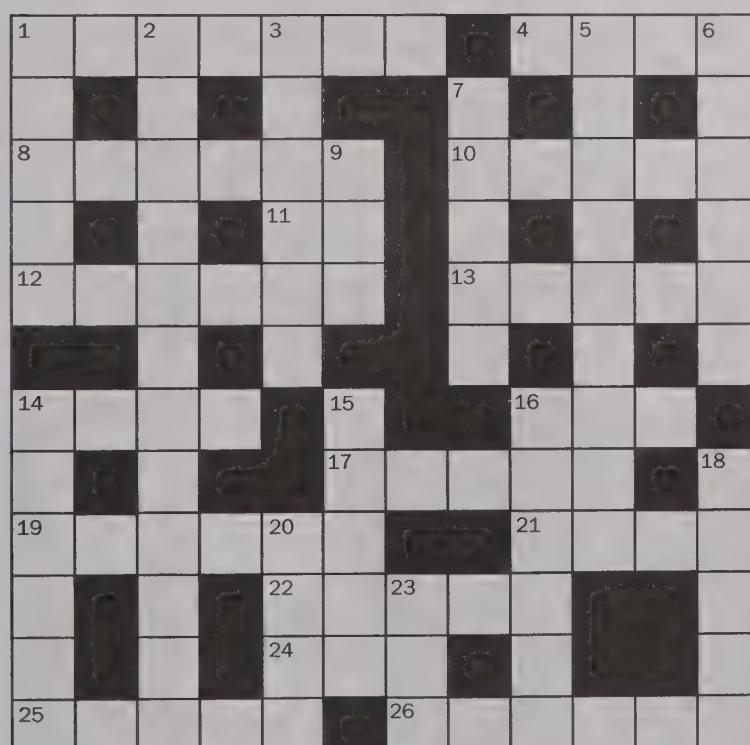
- Which appeal reached its £1.4 million target to build a laboratory in London to help disabled children?
- Which disability exhibition was criticized for not publicizing itself enough?
- Who broke the world 100 metres record?
- Who started a compensation claim for £100 million on the grounds that building works disrupted their lives?
- Which former parliamentary party leader said he would step down as MP at the next election?

- Which superpower started to break up?
- Which European country started to break up?
- What was the score in the cricket test match series between England and the West Indies?
- Which company's directors revealed that its 1990 profits had been artificially inflated?
- Which Swiss artist who designed mobile metal sculpture has died?

DN's crossword

Answers page 27

COMPILED BY REBECCA REYNOLDS



ACROSS

- Touch - language (7)
- Large flightless bird (4)
- Einstein or even Square (6)
- Macho movie man (5)
- Carry out (2)
- Organ of the body (6)
- Indian musical instrument (5)
- Cab (4)
- It sticks (3)
- Goes with blood and tears (5)
- Forward push (6)
- Injection (4)
- Make of encyclopaedia or soap (5)
- Wherefore — thou Romeo? (3)
- Mean (5)

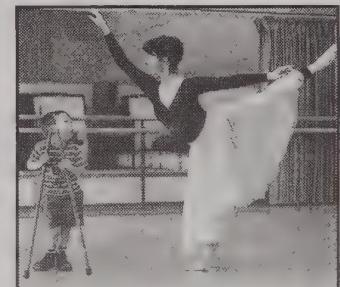
- Number of men in a cricket team (6)

DOWN

- Roger —, athlete (5)
- Able to write with both hands (12)
- Food cupboard (6)
- Advice about the house? (4,4)
- All — ! (6)
- Cheeky (5)
- Plaything (3)
- This horse was used as a disguise (6)
- Jane —, sixties actress (5)
- Burt —, head of RADAR
- Back of ship (5)
- Neuter (4)
- Consumed (3)

September caption winner

The winner for September is Chris Rouse of Eastleigh, Hants, for "That's very clever, but can you ski?" Please keep your entries for the competition coming in - the more the merrier!



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CHECKOUT

Barbara Cullen reports
It's difficult to find equipment which gives support in the bath or shower to people with neurology disorders like cp, multiple sclerosis, motor neurone disease and muscular dystrophy. Here are some good ideas.

Several years ago, whilst working as a community OT, I asked ASM Accessories of Runcorn, Cheshire, to make me a "concertinaed trolley" for a man who had motor neurone disease and could not sit unsupported. His flat was too small for a conventional trolley to be wheeled from bedroom to bathroom.

The result was the Sutton shower cradle, which gives easy access to a wheel-in shower, and comfortable, safe support in the mesh seating. His wife was able to bathe her husband without holding on and the drop-down head sec-



"The best shower seat ever": ASM's Sutton shower cradle

transporter has been endorsed by Philippa Harpen of the Muscular Dystrophy Group. It uses the supportive body of the shower cradle attached to the Mermaid Hoist developed by

child or small adult, the Bealift from BEA Ltd is excellent. The strong frame sits safely on the sides of the bath, and when a lever is operated, the person is lowered into the water, supported in the mesh cradle, and later brought up again. From £189.12, tel: (0203) 674817.

The bright orange, mesh and steel bath care chair from Orthokinetics allows one person to get a severely disabled child in and out of the bath safely. It is supportive and, like all the mesh products, quick drying. Prices start at £220, tel: (0902) 866166.

The Rifton bath chair is excellent for a child who needs a bit less support. The plastic and blue canvas seat sits safely on the bottom of the bath and the back angle can be adjusted easily. Complete with straps. From £170, tel: (0580) 880626.



The Bealift: "excellent" for a child or small adult

tion allowed easy hair washing.

On a recent trial at Daresbury Hall, Cheshire, residents and carers voted it "the best shower seat ever". £211.15, tel: (0928) 574301.

ASM's bath and cradle

FJ Paynes of Oxford. At the turn of a handle, the bather is raised and lowered into the bath safely and comfortably. £980.

For getting up and down in the bath if you are a disabled

WHAT'S ON

Writing for the Screen, a Wednesday evening course, starting 2 October in Hammersmith W6. £3 concessions, £13 Hammersmith & Fulham residents, £17 others. Priority given to disabled people. Heather Davis, HAFAD 1st Chance Project, tel: 071-603 7481.

Road Safety Rally, Sunday 6 October, sponsored by Kellogg's at Trafford Park, Manchester, organised by the Manchester Disabled Motorists Club. Prizes to be won. Information: tel: 061-865 6187.

Physiotherapy and Disability, a one day seminar. 9 October in the Londesborough Room, Alexandra Palace, London. £35, some reductions available. More information from Jane Morrison, The Chartered Society of Physiotherapy, tel: 071-242 1941.

Naidex '91. International exhibition of equipment and services for disabled and elderly people. 9-11 October at Alexandra Palace, London. Tel: (0892) 544027.

Visual Impairments and electronic displays, one day seminar 18 October at the Royal National Institute for the Blind in London. £75. More details from Eileen Marner, RNIB, tel: 071-388 1266.

Rett Syndrome Conference/Family Weekend. 18-20 October at the Crest Hotel, Hinckley Rd, Coventry. Cost and bookings: AML Ltd, tel: 021-233 0417. Informal queries: tel: (0703) 619510.

Therapeutic Recreation Conference. 26 October at Crewe and Alsager College, Cheshire. £25. Details from Jack Gorman, tel: (0270) 761017 (evenings and weekends).

Enterprise - Ability, a conference on 30 October at Lancaster and Morecambe College. £100. Contact Susan Bennett, tel: (0524) 66215 ext 296.

National Care Homes Association 1991 Conference and Exhibition, 31 October-1 November at Haydock Park Racecourse. £25 per day. Further information from Sheila Scott, tel: 071-436 1871.

DisABILITY 1991, a two day event and exhibition in Sussex. 4-5 November. Contact Shelagh Diplock, tel: (0273) 208934.

European Festival of Culture, 7-9 November in St Patrick's Training College, Drumcondra, Dublin. Further information from the organisers, the Irish Deaf Society, tel: 0001-725748.

Free Exhibition of Equipment for Physically and Mentally Handicapped Children, 14 November in Manchester. Details from Mrs Dickinson, Disabled Living Services, tel: 061-832 3678.

INFO

Autism: a guide for parents is a free leaflet. Send a SAE to The National Autistic Society, 276 Willesden Lane, London NW2 5RB.

AIDS Advice Forum is a new bi-monthly bulletin from The Terrence Higgins Trust's Advice Centre. Sliding scale of subscriptions. Contact editor John Gill, tel: 071-831 0330.

The Pro-motion Resource Guide gives details of sports and recreational opportunities for people with a multiple disability. £5 (plus £1.50 p&p) from Cerebral Palsy Sport, Sycamore Sports Centre, Hungerhill Road, St Ann's, Nottingham NG3 4NB.

Easy Steps to Welcome Guests with Disabilities, from the National Tourist Boards and the Holiday Care Service, suggests cheap and no-cost modifications to hotels, guest houses and B&Bs. Free from tourist boards or tel: (0293) 774535.

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INFO

Consumer Matters is an audio cassette which tells visually impaired electricity customers about their rights following privatisation. Available free from OFFER, Public Affairs, Hagley House, Hagley Road, Edgbaston, Birmingham B16 8QG.

Minicom users can call BT's Directory Enquiries service on (0800) 833793. Before dialling set the Minicom to CCITT.

The Royal National Institute for the Blind has produced a new set of leaflets for staff working with visually impaired adults with a learning difficulty. Free from Gill Levy, RNIB, 224 Great Portland Street, London W1 6AA, tel: 071-388 1266 ext 2449.

A Young Disabled People's Project has been set up by the Greater Manchester Coalition of Disabled People to offer support and advice. Contact Beverly Burkitt, tel: 061-273 8141 (voice and minicom).

Adventure For All is a guide to countryside activities and study centres for people with special needs. Available free from Mike Butler, The Support Group, 19 Elrington Road, London E8 3BJ, tel: 071-241 6950.

ASBAH, the Association for Spina Bifida and Hydrocephalus, has produced a video, *Hydrocephalus - a guide to Education*. £35.95 (inc p&p) from ASBAH House, 42 Park Road, Peterborough PE1 2UQ.

MOVES


John Beckwith has been appointed a vice president of the Royal National Institute for the Blind. Henry Clement is now the project administrator at Projects by the Blind Wandsworth. Julie Crowther is the new national manager of the ARC NVQ Consortium. David Finnegan (above left) is the first wheelchair user to be appointed to the post of disability awareness officer at Merseytravel. Tom Jackson has been elected chairman of the Disabled Living Foundation, succeeding Barney Wilson who is now a vice-chairman. George Mackey has been appointed chairman of NICOD and Stephen Matthews (above right) is the new director. Dave Morris is now joint project co-ordinator of CHOICE in Barnet, London. Jane Oberman is the new director of Deaf Accord.

A Voice of our Own: Now and in the Future, a report of the second international conference of People First held in London in 1988, costs £8 (inc p&p) from People First, Oxford House, Derbyshire Street, London E2 6HG, tel: 071-739 3890.

Who Calls the Shots? - What role for the consumer in the new NHS? a publication from the King's Fund Centre, looks at the role of the consumer in health and social care. £8.25 (inc p&p) from Bailey Distribution Ltd, Dept KFP, Learoyd Road, Mountfield Industrial Estate, New Romney, Kent TN28 8XU.

Education A-Z is a reference book for people seeking basic educational information. £9.20 from the Advisory Centre for Education (ACE) Ltd, Unit 1B, Aberdeen Studios, 22-24 Highbury Grove, London N5 2EA.

HELP!

Trish Bayley, a profoundly deaf person, is setting up a non-profit making penfriend club. To receive more details and a copy of the three page newsletter write enclosing 4 x 17p stamps to Papermates, 24 Tickle Avenue, Parr, St Helens, Merseyside WA9 1RZ.

Are you the father of a child with a learning difficulty? If you would like to contribute to a collection of articles on bringing up a child with learning difficulties contact Maggie Iles, 50 Court Road, Kingswood, Bristol BS15 2QG, tel: (0272) 604873.

Do you have a view to express on the design, facilities and philosophy of centres offering advice on specialist equipment for people with disabilities? Judith Johnson is researching the role of such centres. Contact her at The School of Occupational Therapy, The London Hospital Medical College, Turner Street, London E1 2AD, tel: 071-375 0270.

Do you have cerebral palsy? Do you want to share your story? If so Claude Frazier is writing a book and wants to hear from you. Contact him at Building 4, Doctors Park, Asheville, N.C. 28801, USA.

HOLIDAYS

ORLANDO FLORIDA for your dream holiday. Go for it! Custom built adapted bungalow. Sheer luxury throughout. 3 double bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, sleeps 6. Ten mins airport, 20 mins Disney. Owner paraplegic - no problems. Availability Nov 30th 91 - April 11 92, May 20 onwards. Sue Fisher, 5 Park Lane, Salford M7 0LB Tel: 061 792 3029. Send large S.A.E.

NORTH DEVON, self-catering cottages sleeping 4-6 (2 specially designed for wheelchairs) fully equipped and heated - linen provided. Peaceful country setting for touring Exmoor, Dartmoor and Devon Coast. Brochure from South Coombe Farm, Witheridge, Tiverton, Devon EX16 8QL, tel: (0884) 860302.

BRITTANY COTTAGE to let. Fully adapted for wheelchair use. Good access to beaches. Sleeps up to 6. Details C Hodgson. Tel: (0924) 454300.

Costa Blanca - Spain Wheelchair accessible twin bedded accommodation. Swimming pool, adapted minibus, plus various trips and outings included. For full details send for a free colour brochure to: Daystar Holidays Ltd, 26 Scots Way, Tunbridge Wells, Kent TN2 5RG or telephone (0892) 25133.

Try a **WINGED FELLOWSHIP** Holiday in Britain or Overseas. Great fun and full care provided. Write for free colour brochure. Winged Fellowship, Angel House, 20/32 Pentonville Road, London N1 9XD, tel: 071-833 2594.

SUNNY TENERIFE
Fully Accessible Mar y Sol

"Brilliant" says BBC TV
Holiday Apartments - and Timeshare
Brochure: Lynne James, 7 Overpool Road,
Ellesmere Port L66 1JW. (Tel: 051-339 5316)

For a trouble-free holiday
with all the family try:
ASHWELLTHORPE HALL HOTEL
a discreetly adapted manor house
set in acres of beautiful grounds.
22 bedrooms - licensed bars - free
use of wheelchairs - mini-bus.
Tel: (050841) 324
or write to: The Manager
Ashwellthorpe Hall Hotel
Ashwellthorpe
Norwich NR16 1EX

Isle of Anglesey. Luxury FULLY wheelchair accessible holiday bungalows. Superb quality Grade 5 accommodation with 3 large bedrooms and Wheel-in Shower-room, sleeping up to 6 people. Stunning country views all around and only minutes from beautiful beaches. TRULY wheelchair accessible with showerheads, monkeypoles, bedblocks etc free of charge for your problem free holiday. For our 1992 brochure: Hen Ysgol Holiday Homes, Rhoscolyn, Isle of Anglesey, LL65 2RQ, or phone 0407 741593. Don't delay 1991 was fully booked (some Autumn weeks vacant).

MAR Y SOL, Los Cristianos, Tenerife. Wheelchair accessible apartments and studios to rent or buy in luxury complex. Heated pool with hoist, restaurant, health treatments. Video available. Cheap flights. Sue Abbott, 123 Coppermill Road, Wraysbury, Staines, Middx TW19 5NX, tel: (0753) 685718.

**For subscription
details please
see page 3.**

SEMINAR

EMPLOYMENT SEMINAR 1991 - 25TH AND 26TH OCTOBER 1991

An exciting opportunity to hear from three major employers and three successful employment projects, who are working to find good jobs for people with disabilities and to share your ideas, problems and experiences in three informative workshops.

WORKSHOPS

* Getting through the benefit trap * Techniques in approaching employers *

* Marketing intelligence for employment workers *

Sponsored by Excel Employment, £85 for two day workshop.

Tel: 081 348 8141 for booking arrangements

EXCEL

FIND-A-FRIEND

MALE, 33, with CP but mobile, seeks friends around Coventry area. Easy-going personality. Interested in sports (swimming, cycling, yoga). Likes an occasional drink out. Box No. 376.

FEMALE, 37, recently divorced with SSF. Does a lot of voluntary work. Likes meeting people. Has a good sense of humour. Would like someone with same humour to write. Box No. 377.

I AM 33, tall, fair, slim, female. I am fairly fit, enjoy swimming, riding, cinemas, pubs and clubs and restaurants. I have Huntingdon's Chorea, and I need a wheelchair outdoors, as my walking isn't too good. I have my own flat, am totally independent, and get out and about, and like meeting people. Looking for male company. A recent photo would be appreciated. Box No. 378.

INDEPENDENT MALE, 27, with cerebral palsy seeks female 20 plus (able bodied or disabled) for friendship/relationship. My interests include travelling, socialising and making loads of money! Females with similar interests must reply! Box No. 379.

There is a short waiting list for Find-a-Friend advertisements. Do not worry if your ad is not in straight away, it will probably appear next month.

For Find-A-Friend ads please send a cheque or postal order for £3 payable to *Disability Now* with your ad. This is to help cover our costs.

FEMALE, VERY OUTGOING, actress, young at heart, reasonably young to look at. Blond, good mixer. Main disability emphysema. Seeks friend, preferably male, if not female. 60 plus, definitely non-smoker. Box No. 380.

To reply to a Find-A-Friend indicate the Box Number and mark the envelope Private and Confidential. If you do not it will be opened. Send to Disability Now, address on page 2.



For people with disabilities and caring, understanding able bodied persons
Ladies should not be shy of applying!

All enquiries to: **HANDIMATE**
The Wellington Centre
52 Chevallier Street
Ipswich, Suffolk IP1 2PB
Telephone: (0473) 226950

International Introductions

The dating service with the PERSONAL touch
LONELY?????

There's no need to be lonely any more, we at

International Introductions

are here to help you find that special partner in life. Let us help you to stop that routine & loneliness and give you someone to look forward to -

- * Australian styled Dating Agency with 11 years experience
- * Disabled Welcome. 7 days a week - 24 hour day personal service
- * A totally personal service; with no computers
- * Strictly confidential service
- * Compatible partners assured
- * An efficient friendly office

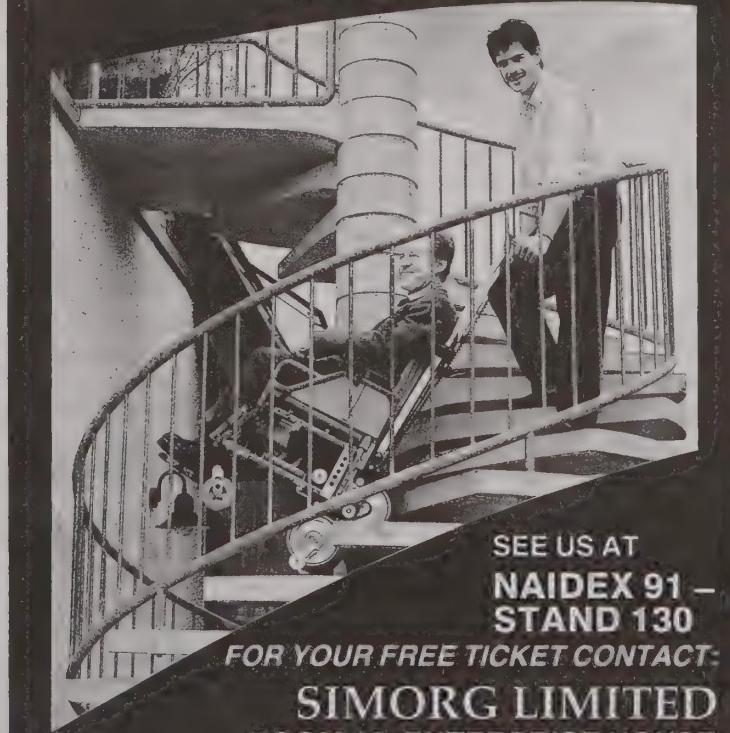
Why not call into our office and have a coffee and let us explain the many more advantages by joining us at:

International Introductions

'YOUR HAPPINESS IS OUR BUSINESS'
13 BARK STREET EAST, (Off Upper Bridge St), Bolton,
BL1 2BQ or please phone us on: (0204) 387396 or
35873 - NOT an answering machine. Also inquire with
our executive office, 061 832 4272

Low fees
Lifetime
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Introductions

THE SCALAMOBIL POWERED STAIR CLIMBER
NOW YOU AND YOUR WHEELCHAIR CAN CLIMB STAIRS TOGETHER



SEE US AT
NAIDEX 91 - STAND 130

FOR YOUR FREE TICKET CONTACT:
SIMORG LIMITED
ROOM 13, ENTERPRISE HOUSE
7 GORDON STREET,
LUTON LU1 2QP
OR PHONE US ON (0582) 484785

Centre Worker

Snowdon House Information Centre (DIAL) to manage and develop the Centre and to work with individual users of the Centre who are in complex situations. Applicants could have experience of advice work, counselling, welfare work, or related disability work and show evidence of management ability. Personal experience of disability is desirable. Application form and job description from Shelagh Diplock, The Brighton and Hove Federation of the Disabled, 3, Rutland Gardens, Hove BN3 5PD. Closing date: 11.10.91

**ASIAN PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES ALLIANCE
ADVICE AND INFORMATION OFFICER (P/T)**

To provide Advice and Information on areas affecting the lives of Asian disabled people. Sound experience in the use of computers and setting up of information systems desirable.

In view of the personal service to be provided to Asian people, ability to communicate in at least one Asian language, preferably Hindi, Urdu and/or Gujarati and personal knowledge of the cultures of the Asian community are essential to this post.

Hours of work: 17 and a half hours. Salary: £6,000 (inc.)

Applications from disabled people are encouraged and positively welcomed.

For application form and details contact: APDA, Ground Floor, Willesden Hospital, Harlesden Road, London NW10 3RY. Tel: 081-459 5793.

CLOSING DATE: Friday 11th October 1991

**We may have the job you are looking for!**

The British Film Institute exists to encourage the development of the art of film and television. It operates the National Film Theatre, the Museum of the Moving Image and the National Film Archive. Other activities include Film Production, Distribution, Research, Education and Publishing. We employ approximately 500 staff, mainly in central London, undertaking a wide range of responsibilities from managerial and technical to clerical and specialist professional.

The Institute is fully committed to its policy of equal opportunity for all and we would like to employ people from all sections of the community. If you think that you may be interested in working for an organisation such as ours, please send in a full curriculum vitae to the address below; or contact Lindsay Campbell in the Personnel Department for further information and details of current vacancies.

British Film Institute, 21 Stephen Street, London W1P 1PL. Tel: 071 255 1444.

**PARKSIDE HEALTH AUTHORITY
ST. CHARLES HOSPITAL****P/T SECRETARY**

£9,876 - £11,227 pa pro rata

We are currently looking for a part time secretary to work 25 hours per week in our Occupational Therapy Department.

Applicants should have typing skills, good organisational skills and an ability to cope under pressure and prioritise work. Word processing skills are desirable.

For further information contact Mrs Linda Fox, Head Occupational Therapist, tel: 081 969 2488 ext. 2629.

P/T SWITCHBOARD OPERATOR

£145.98 - £150.35 per week pro rata

A vacancy also exists for a part time Switchboard Operator to work 19.5 hours per week (hours variable, some weekend work). The postholder will be required to operate a Merlin DX Switchboard in a busy hospital environment.

Previous switchboard experience is desirable.

For further information contact Mr Peter Connolly, General Services Manager, tel: 081 969 2488 ext. 2380.

Application forms and job descriptions for both posts are available from the Personnel Department, St. Charles Hospital, Exmoor Street, London W10 6DZ. Tel: 081 968 2386.

Working Towards Equal Opportunities.

SERVICES**Adam Price Accessible Vehicles**

If you need a vehicle to carry up to five seated passengers and a wheelchair but your budget will not stretch to a new one, contact us.

- * Used accessible vehicles supplied
- * Access conversions to your vehicle
- * Passenger use and access conversions to used vans
- * Realistic prices
- * Any make supplied

Our comprehensive service includes locating a suitable vehicle, processing H.M. Customs & Excise requirements and delivery to your door. Tel: Office (0202) 814112, Mobile (0860) 620779

EVENTS**Exhibition for the Disabled
DISABILITY & MOBILITY PROMOTIONS
Presents the NORTH EASTERN NATIONAL EXHIBITION
to be held at
NORTHUMBRIA CENTRE
on Friday & Saturday 10th,
11th April 1992**

Exhibitors who wish to stand at the above exhibition please apply before December 1st 1991. The show is situated between Sunderland and Newcastle and advertising will be of a very high profile throughout the North East, i.e. tv and radio, national and local press. Parking for 1,500 cars. An exhibition not to be missed - the first national one of its kind in the area. Book early as demand will be heavy. Write or phone Dave Peacock, Disability & Mobility Promotions, 38 Lawrence Close, Higham, Barnsley, South Yorkshire S75 1PE. Tel: 0226 386677 or 0831 260948.

NEWS QUIZ ANSWERS

1. The One Small Step Appeal
2. Naidex
3. Carl Lewis
4. People living near the Docklands development in London
5. David Owen
6. The USSR
7. Yugoslavia
8. 2-2
9. Brent Walker
10. Jean Tinguely.

DISABLED PARTNER needed to work with one other disabled person to establish an access consultancy service to businesses and organisations in the midlands area. Ideally have some experience and/or qualifications in design/planning, with understanding of disability equality.

Write to: Mark Lee, 89 Foston Gate, Wigston, Leicester LE8 1SS.

Leisure & Recreation Department**SPORTS DEVELOPMENT FOR THE COMMUNITY**

The Department has recently reorganised its Sports and Play Development Section and has three key posts to fill. This section's aim is to bring sport and recreation opportunities to the Community.

The Sports Development posts require experience of Sports Coaching/Tuition with Governing Body coaching qualifications and Community Sports-related experience. Experience of outdoor pursuits would be preferred.

Sports Development Supervisor

Scale 6 Salary £15,447-£16,368 (inclusive of London Weighting) (Ref: DN/7/0110)
The post-holder will work within the community, particularly with people with disabilities, helping in the development of sport and recreation opportunities for disadvantaged groups. She/He will organise and run a variety of coaching courses/events and will need good oral and written communication skills.

In addition to this, supervisory experience is needed, and duties will include the overall development of section activities.

Sports Development Worker

Scale 5 Salary £13,845-£15,018 (inclusive of London Weighting) (Ref: DN/7/0109)
The skills and experience required for this post are as outlined above, but without the need for Supervisory experience.

All applicants shortlisted for the above posts will be required to undertake a practical coaching test.

Applications from Registered Disabled people are positively encouraged, any with the pre-requisite qualifications will automatically be shortlisted.

Executive Officer

Scale 3 Salary £11,400-£12,099 (inclusive of London Weighting) (Ref: DN/7/0112)
The post holder will be responsible for providing an administrative and clerical support service to the staff employed within the Development team.

Knowledge of office routines and the ability to demonstrate a committed attitude to providing a quality service is essential.

If you also have the ability to deal with members of the public in a sensitive and caring manner we would like to hear from you.

For this post all Registered Disabled candidates will automatically be shortlisted.

Women and people from black groups are under represented in this field and we would therefore welcome applications from these groups.

Section 38 (1) Race Relations Act 1976, Section 48 Sex Discrimination Act 1975 applies.

Applications are particularly welcome from Southwark residents.

Application forms and further details are available from: Personnel Section, Leisure and Recreation Department, 186 Walworth Road, London SE17 1JJ. Tel: 071-703 0352. 9.00am-5.00pm Monday-Friday.

An Equal Opportunities Employer.

Last date for receipt of application forms: 25th October, 1991.

INDEPENDENT LIVING**OPPORTUNITIES FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING**

SHAD Wandsworth and **SHAD Lambeth** can offer you an opportunity for independent living if:

- * you are a severely physically disabled person.
- * you are able to manage your own life and direct a team of 2 or 3 facilitators.
- * you live in Wandsworth/Lambeth: or your home is in Wandsworth/Lambeth but live outside the borough: or you have strong family ties to Wandsworth/Lambeth: or you work in the borough and need to live close by.

We are not a sheltered housing scheme, you will be living in your own home and we can provide:

- * an adapted flat through a tenancy with a local housing association.
- * a team of 2 or 3 people to facilitate your everyday physical needs.
- * the security of an organisation which has 10 year's experience.

If you would like more information or an application form please contact either: The Secretary, SHAD Wandsworth, Nightingale Centre, 8 Balham Hill, London SW12 9EA or phone 081 675 6095 for Wandsworth applications: or Mike or Emma, SHAD Lambeth, The Co-op Centre, 11 Mowll Street, London SW9 6BG or phone 071-735 2266 for Lambeth applications.

SHAD Wandsworth is working towards being an equal opportunities organisation and we particularly welcome applications from black or asian women as they are under represented in the organisation.

Did you know that *Disability Now* is a non-profit making newspaper and welcomes donations? If you can help, write to *DN*, address on page 2.

EAST BRISTOL YOUTH HOUSING ASSOCIATION**HOUSING WORKER**

3 YEAR POST - 35 HOURS PER WEEK

SALARY £12,318.00

East Bristol Youth Housing Association is a small local Housing Association providing housing for 90 young single people. We are looking for someone with housing management and/or youth work experience to join our Housing Team due to the current post-holder changing jobs.

East Bristol Youth Housing Association is striving to be an Equal Opportunities Employer and encourages applications from all sections of the community.

Closing Date: 11th October 1991.

For more information contact East Bristol Youth Housing Association, 42 Chelsea Road, Easton, Bristol, BS5 6AF. Tel: (0272) 551201.

Office wheelchair accessible, properties not necessarily.



Southwark Council

THE NATIONAL COLLEGE

COURSES:

A full range of courses for students with physical and sensory disabilities, residential and day. CPVE, GCSE, BTEC (First Level and National), A level, RSA, City and Guilds, LCC, Pitmans; access courses (pre-degree) in Art, Engineering Studies, Business Studies, Social Sciences. Course can be broadened with subjects taught at Tile Hill College of Further Education.

ACADEMIC FACILITIES:

A wide range of computer and Information Technology facilities in the Supported Self Study Centre (including all-day tutor support).

Three networked Computer Suites to support all courses. Art, Photography and Science Suites.

Extensive video production and editing facilities based in the fully equipped Theatre.

Individual study support with a professional team of assistants.

NATIONAL ACCESS CENTRE:

The National Co-ordinating centre for the National Federation of ACCESS Centres (NFAC); assessment and support



*The National College for Students
with Physical and Sensory Disabilities*

Hereward College of Further Education,
Bramston Crescent, Tile Hill Lane, Coventry CV4 9SW
Telephone: (0203) 461231 Fax: (0203) 694305

Hereward COLLEGE

AUDIO/COPY TYPIST/ WP OPERATOR

Salary £12,306-£13,536
inclusive of London Allowance

The AMA is a voluntary organisation representing the interests of Metropolitan Local Authorities in England.

We are seeking an experienced audio/copy typist/wp operator for a period of six months initially, with a strong possibility of the post being made permanent.



The person should have a typing speed of 50 words per minute, relevant typing qualification and a good command of English.

Word Processing skills, a flexible approach, ability to work under pressure and commitment to AMA's Equal Opportunity policy is essential.

Ability to operate the Adler Sreetyper and/or Wordperfect (5.1) would be an advantage.

People with disabilities are under-represented at this level. Those people with registered disabilities who meet the job specification will be guaranteed an interview. The building is accessible to people with disabilities.

For further details please write or phone for an application form to The Secretary, AMA, 35 Great Smith Street, London SW1P 3BJ. Telephone 071-222 8100. Closing date for the post is Monday 30th September 1991.

Association of Metropolitan Authorities

BBC RADIO

Network Radio Production Trainees 1992

Do you shout at your radio? Do you think you could do the job better yourself? If you want to produce factual speech programmes for Radio 3, Radio 4 or Radio 5 - this could be the scheme for you.

After formal training and up to 2 years of working attachments you'll be eminently well qualified to become a fully fledged producer of programmes like *Start the Week*, *You and Yours*, *This Family Business*, *Third Ear*, *Science Now*, *Kaleidoscope*, *Face the Facts*, *Loose Ends* or *Woman's Hour*.

You'll need to be -

- * enthusiastic about network radio;
- * able to hear the difference between a good programme and a bad one;
- * imaginative, so that you can translate your ideas into exciting radio.

Your maturity and breadth of experience and interest will be considered as important as your educational qualifications. You'll also need to be energetic, innovative, insatiably curious, able to communicate easily verbally and in writing - and at least 22.

Applications from those with disabilities, or from black and Asian people, are particularly welcome as these groups are under-represented in network radio production.

The initial salary will be £14,021 plus an allowance of £1,500 and is reviewed at the end of the first year.

Further details of the Scheme and application form are available from (quote ref. 8504/DI) BBC Corporate Recruitment Services, London W1A 1AA. Tel: 071-436 5555 Minicom 071-436 6700. The information is also available on a short cassette for visually handicapped applicants.

Completed forms must be returned by 18th October 1991.

Preliminary interviews will be held from 20th - 24th January 1992. You should know if you're being invited by Christmas. The training commences September 1992.

WORKING FOR EQUALITY OF OPPORTUNITY

TO ADVERTISE YOUR VACANCIES/COURSES

Please contact the Advertisement Manager, Richard Gresham, Kingslea Press Limited, 12 Dock Offices, Surrey Quays Road, London SE16 2XU. Telephone 071- 252 1362. Fax: 071- 237 8019.

DISABILITY ACTION WESTMINSTER

DISABILITY INFORMATION SERVICE CO-ORDINATOR

Disability Action Westminster requires a full-time Co-ordinator for its Disability Information Service office in Warwick Row, London SW1,

You will provide information to disabled people on all aspects of daily life, including welfare benefits, assisted by and supporting a team of trained volunteers.

Experience in public information work and knowledge of welfare rights an advantage.

People with disabilities are strongly encouraged to apply; premises are accessible.

NJC Scale 6, point 26 - £14631, including London Weighting (1991 pay award pending).

For job description & application form, contact Phil Cordell, Disability Action Westminster, 41 Chippenham Road, London W9 2AH (Telephone: 071-266 2143).

Closing date for returned applications: Friday 18th October 1991
Interview date: Monday 28th October 1991

WALTHAM FOREST EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

PROJECT LEADER (DISABILITY)

£18,213 to £20,203 (Unqualified £11,013 to £12,315) inc pa

If you are a Youth Worker experienced in:

- developing policy and Work programmes for young people with disabilities
- implementing equal opportunities
- empowering young people with disabilities
- working with Black and Asian people with disabilities

Contact us now.

Applicants are restricted to candidates who have a disability.

Closing date: 11.11.91

For an application form and further details apply to:
The Recruitment Team, Personnel Unit, Education Department,
Municipal Offices, High Road, London E10 5QJ.
Tel: 081-527 5544 ext. 5351.

THE LONDON BOROUGH OF



AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES EMPLOYER

All posts are available for job share.

Job details are available on tape on request.

Waltham Forest serves a multi-racial community and welcomes applications from women, black and ethnic minorities, people with disabilities, lesbians and gay men to help build a representative workforce.

PERSONNEL DEPARTMENT

Access Officer

S9 £19461 - £21186

Sheffield is committed to improving the built environment of People with Disabilities and the success of the previous postholder's work can be seen in recent major developments such as the Meadowhall Shopping Complex and the World Student Games facilities.

We have just adopted an Access Policy and have also sanctioned the setting up of an Access Group composed of disabled people to ensure that detailed consultation takes place on the many major developments planned for the City. The implementation of the Policy and the facilitation of the Group will be two of the prime duties of the Access Officer.

The successful candidate will also be providing advice and guidance to other Officers of the Council, owners, occupiers and developers of buildings, together with ensuring that development plans and individual schemes reflect the needs of people with disabilities. The post has the added responsibility of administering an Urban Programme Access Grant.

Candidates should have:

- * direct experience of disability
- * the ability to work with People with Disabilities
- * excellent communication skills which can be applied in an assertive manner.

It is also desirable that candidates possess some skills in the understanding of plans and some knowledge of building/architectural design.

This post is restricted to applicants with a disability: Section 9(i) of the Employment Act 1944 applies.

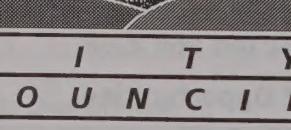
This post is jointly funded by the Personnel Department and Land Planning.

Informal enquiries to David Whitfield, tel 0742 735568 or Andy Topley, tel 0742 734190.

APPLICATION FORMS AND FURTHER DETAILS FROM THE JOB SHOP, GROUND FLOOR, TOWN HALL EXTENSION, SHEFFIELD S1 2HH, TEL 0742 735417.

CLOSING DATE 17TH OCTOBER.

Sheffield



C I T Y
C O U N C I L

*Working towards
equal opportunities.*

Job sharers welcome

DEADLINES FOR NOVEMBER ISSUE

Booking by 11 October

Camera ready artwork/copy by 15 October



Strathcona Theatre Company

A unique theatre company of people with learning difficulties requires

A PART-TIME DIRECTOR/ADMINISTRATOR

Salary £6,396 basic per annum (17½ hour week)

This well established Company is seeking a second person to work alongside the existing Director. We are looking for an enthusiastic and creative worker with specialist skills and/or experience in: devising drama workshops and theatre productions; fundraising and general administration. Applicants must be sensitive to the differing needs of company members, to ensure their continuing role in the development of Strathcona Theatre Company.

A clean driving licence is essential.

Closing date: 25th October 1991

For an information pack and application form please send a large SAE to:

Strathcona Theatre Company, 15 Reservoir Road, London SE4 2NU.

Strathcona is an equal opportunities employer.

- DISABILITY
- ACTION
- SUTTON

DISABILITY ACTION SUTTON
ACCESS WORKER

Applications are invited for the above post

Based in Sutton the successful applicant will have experience/knowledge of disability issues and be able to promote improved access within the borough.

D.A.S. in working towards an equal opportunities policy, welcomes applications from all sections of the community. We strongly encourage disabled people to apply.

For application form, please contact 081-643-6059 (24 hours) or write to:

Disability Action Sutton

Sutton West Centre

Robin Hood Lane, Sutton, Surrey SM1 2SD

Salary £12,747 & Outer London Weighting (under review). 36 hour week.

Closing date 17.10.91.

ST. BRIDGET'S CHESHIRE HOME
RUSTINGTON, WEST SUSSEX

DEPUTY HEAD OF CARE

St. Bridget's is a purpose built home for younger people with physical disabilities.

We seek a person who can deputise for the Head of Care. The successful applicant will be responsible for ensuring that the Residents receive all the care/medical expertise that they may require.

A relevant Nursing Qualification required. Experience of working with people with disabilities would be an advantage.

Salary negotiable.

For further information, Job Description and application form please contact Paulene Kelcey on Rustington 0903 783988.

Informal discussion and visit welcome.

THE SPASTICS SOCIETY
FOR PEOPLE WITH CEREBRAL PALSY

North Region Personnel Officer

Scale 8: £16014 - 17271 (Pay Award Pending)

A vacancy has arisen for an enthusiastic, qualified and experienced Personnel Officer to join a committed staff team in the Society's North Region.

The person appointed will be responsible for the provision of a full range of personnel services to staff within the Region consistent with the Society's aims, objectives and policies. He/she will also be required to support local voluntary groups affiliated to the Society.

Applications from people with disabilities would be very welcome.

A lease car may be available.

A job description, application form and further details are available from: Jane Edgeley, Regional Office Administrator, The Spastics Society, North Regional Office, 8 Brindley Way, Wakefield 41 Business Park North, Wakefield WF2 0XQ. Tel. 0924 828980.

Closing date for applications is Thursday 10th October 1991.

WORKING TOWARDS EQUALITY

CROSSWORD ANSWERS

ACROSS: 1. Braille 4. Rhea 8. Albert 10. Rambo 11. Do 12. Kidney 13. Sitar 14. Taxi 16. Mud 17. Sweat 20. Onrush 21. Shot 22. Pears 24. Art 25. Nasty 26. Eleven

DOWN: 1. Black 2. Ambidextrous 3. Larder 5. Home truth 6. Aboard 7. Brash 9. Toy 14. Trojan 15. Asher 16. Massie 20. Spay 23. Ate

'OPEN ACCESS' TO JOBS

As the largest City Council in the country and by far the biggest employer in Birmingham, we employ over 50,000 people, and regularly have a number of vacancies of all types and at all levels - manual, craft, office, technical and managerial.

The present make-up of our workforce does not reflect the community it serves. In order to help us change this, we particularly welcome more job applications from women and men with disabilities, who are under-represented in many areas of work.

Interested?... then make sure you see our weekly 'Job Search' which lists all of our current vacancies. It can be seen at all Job Centres, Neighbourhood Offices, most Public Libraries and Recreation and Community Services establishments in Birmingham. You can also obtain 'Job Search' by phoning 021-235 3852 during office hours. Selected vacancies also appear in every Thursday's Birmingham Evening Mail.

Birmingham City Council

The City Council welcomes applications from all sections of the community, irrespective of race, colour, gender, sexuality or disability.

Job Sharers welcome, no partner necessary.

real
The EastEnders

Newham, situated in the heart of East London, encompasses many amenities and facilities with exciting developments in Docklands and many other parts of the Borough. We also enjoy excellent transport links, through Stratford, Plaistow, East Ham and other sites, so you can reach us by road, rail, underground and even by air via the City Airport.

Newham Council is committed to working with and for our busy, friendly, multi-racial and multi-cultural community and we constantly seek to enhance the quality of our services.

Newham Council has a regular and exciting selection of job opportunities, to suit all tastes, ranging from Accountants to Watersports Instructors, from Administrators to Youth Workers.

We are constantly striving to achieve equality of opportunity for all sections of the community, both as an employer and a provider of services. Aware of the disadvantages that people can suffer in employment, we seek to combat discrimination in all its manifestations. Applications for jobs are particularly encouraged from members of many of the minority groups known to be under-represented in the workforce and these include members of the Asian, African, Caribbean and other ethnic minority people, women, people with disabilities and Lesbians and Gay Men.

Watch for our regular job advertisements placed in national, professional, minority and the free local press or check our weekly Vacancy Bulletin at local libraries, Community Centres and Council Offices including East Ham Town Hall reception. Details of many jobs can also be found at local Job Centres.

So why not think about joining the cast of the "Real EastEnders"!

STRIVING FOR EQUALITY

We positively welcome applications from all sections of the community. Job sharers welcome.

NEWHAM COUNCIL

THE HEART OF EAST LONDON

WANTED

Croydon Council welcomes applications from all people who make up the Community it serves.

In particular we welcome more job applications from women and men with disabilities, who are under-represented in many areas of work.

To help ensure that people with disabilities know what's on offer we can regularly send you

a copy of our weekly vacancy bulletin. Just complete the coupon below and send it to:-

Head of Personnel and Management Services, Room 8.10, Taberner House, Park Lane, Croydon, CR9 3JS

or telephone the Personnel and Management Services Department on 081-686 4433 Ext. 2011.

PEOPLE WITH ABILITIES

I would like to receive details of the Council's vacancies.

Name.....

Address.....

Post Code.....

CROYDON

AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

Disability Now October 1991

Wheelchair customers can't be pushed around

Disabled people should be treated as customers when being assessed for a wheelchair, says director of the Spinal Injuries Association Stephen Bradshaw.

Speaking at a conference on wheelchair provision in the 1990s, organised in London last month by the Chartered Society of Physiotherapists and the Royal Association for Disability and Rehabilitation (RADAR), he said "the old fashioned approach that the patient is always wrong" must go.

"The experienced consumer is, in almost all cases, the best judge of what is best for them. A new motto should be adopted: the customer is right."

Mr Bradshaw wanted the relationship between assessor and customer to parallel that between a client and accountant, with the customer making the final decision about what equipment they need.

"The old approach of simply forcing disabled people into whatever chair is available must be outlawed."

"To avoid abuse within the system", he wanted all wheelchair services monitored by a central advisory group and several local advisory committees, with at least half the

members disabled people.

"If disabled people are to get the wheelchair service they deserve there is a lot more work to be done. We should be invited to comment on the service and put forward proposals to improve it."

Morigue Cornwell, director of the Banstead Mobility Centre, argued: "If government funding was increased, the service would provide mobility for many more disabled people. Until this happens, disabled people will have to buy products themselves or rely on charities."

RADAR's director Bert Massie, who chaired the conference, said: "The new wheelchair service is too fragmented and too financially constrained. There should be an organisation that represents all disabled people using the wheelchair service and national guidelines on wheelchair provision must be drawn up."

*The Government has launched a group to advise on rehabilitation services for people with physical disabilities. Chaired by former Disablement Services Authority chairman, Lord Holderness, members include disability consultant Anne Davies and Lord McColl.



Riding high: members of the British dressage team from the Riding for the Disabled Association brought home three medals from the 2nd World Championships in Denmark.

Where's the sharing in caring?

Only one in 20 disabled children are receiving respite care, according to a report published last month by the charity National Childrens Home (NCH).

Sharing the Caring also reveals that three out of four children with the most severe disabilities do not get any respite care.

The report shows that many families only discover respite care services by accident and that GPs, hospitals and social workers often do not tell par-

ents that services exist.

"It is shocking that the vast majority of families with disabled children are receiving so little practical support," said NCH chief executive Tom White.

"Many children with the most severe disabilities need almost 24-hour care, and yet their families are expected to cope alone."

"We believe there should be an immediate increase in respite care provision, with health and local authorities

working together with voluntary organisations to develop new schemes."

The NCH is also asking local authorities to ensure there are accurate registers of disabled children and that families are given information on respite care as laid down in the new Children Act coming into force this month.

Sharing the Caring, £5 from the NCH, 85 Highbury Park, London N5 1UD, tel: 071-226 2033.



The Ford Escort has always been one of the best selling cars in the Motability scheme, and the latest Ford Escort should be no exception.

Although only slightly wider than its predecessor,

it's considerably roomier inside. Shallower sills and taller doors that open wider, make getting in and out easier, particularly when you have awkward items to carry, such as a foldaway wheelchair.

Height adjustable front seat belts ensure all occupants travel comfortably, and there's also a remote release (on L models and above) for the new lower and wider tailgate.

Another creature comfort is power assisted steering, available for the first time as an option (1.6 litre engine models only).

For more information fill in the coupon opposite, or call freephone 0800 252 983.

Alternatively, contact one of our Motability specialists (you'll find one at almost every Ford main dealership). They'll also be able to give you details of the special Escort for disabled drivers.

Remember, you don't have to be a disabled driver

to qualify for the Motability scheme. In fact you don't have to be disabled at all. If you have a friend or someone in your family who is disabled you simply have to be nominated by them to act as their 'chauffeur'.

Ford Motor Company, FREEPOST, Dept EWA, St. Mary's Green, Chelmsford, Essex CM1 3BR. Please send me the Motability scheme details.

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When we designed the new Escort, we considered every kind of family.